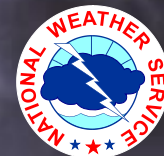
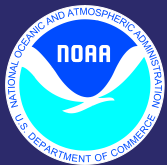


# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## DETAINEE HURRICANE EVACUATION TABLETOP EXERCISE (TTX)



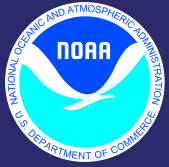
# WELCOME



# **National Weather Service**

## **Hurricane Scenario / Advisories**





# Module 1 (H-120)



**August 30, 2014 (Advisory 1)**

**At 10am CDT, the center of Hurricane Duff is located about 1700 miles east-southeast of Brownsville, Texas and moving toward the west-northwest at 6 mph.**

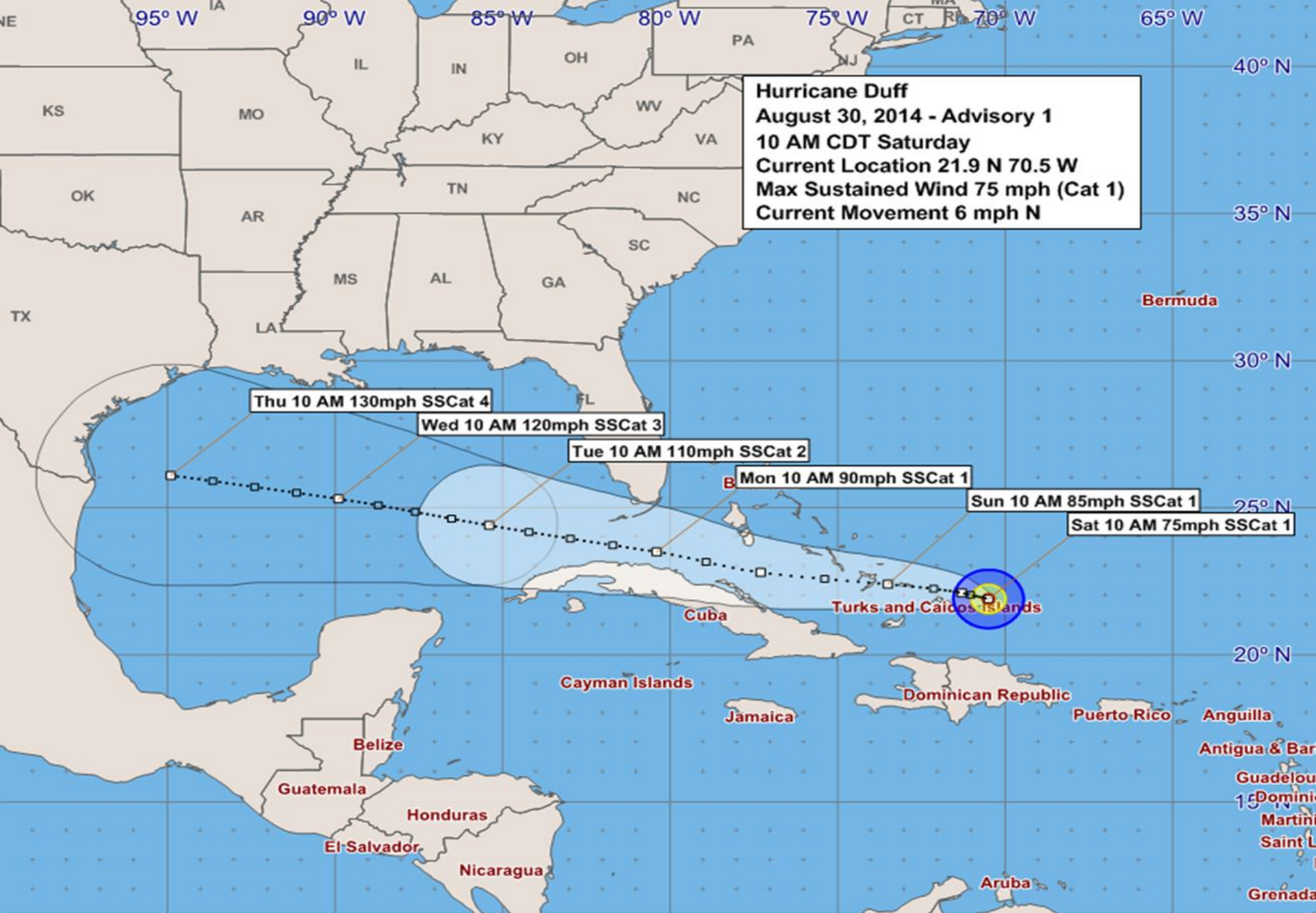
**The maximum sustained winds are 75 mph and Duff is a category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale.**

**Duff is forecast to continue toward the west-northwest for the next few days, passing through the Florida Straits and into the Gulf of Mexico.**

**The hurricane is forecast to move into an environment of low shear and over warm Gulf water, both of which should allow for consistent strengthening and Duff could be a major hurricane by mid-week.**

**One uncertainty is what effect interaction with Cuba could have on the structure and eventual intensity of Duff.**





□ forecast positions    Potential Track Area:    day 1-3    day 4-5    Wind Extents:    at current location

Sustained Wind Speeds:    tropical storm  $\geq 34\text{kt}/39\text{mph}$     strong tropical storm  $\geq 50\text{kt}/58\text{mph}$     hurricane  $\geq 64\text{kt}/74\text{mph}$

# Medium for Track

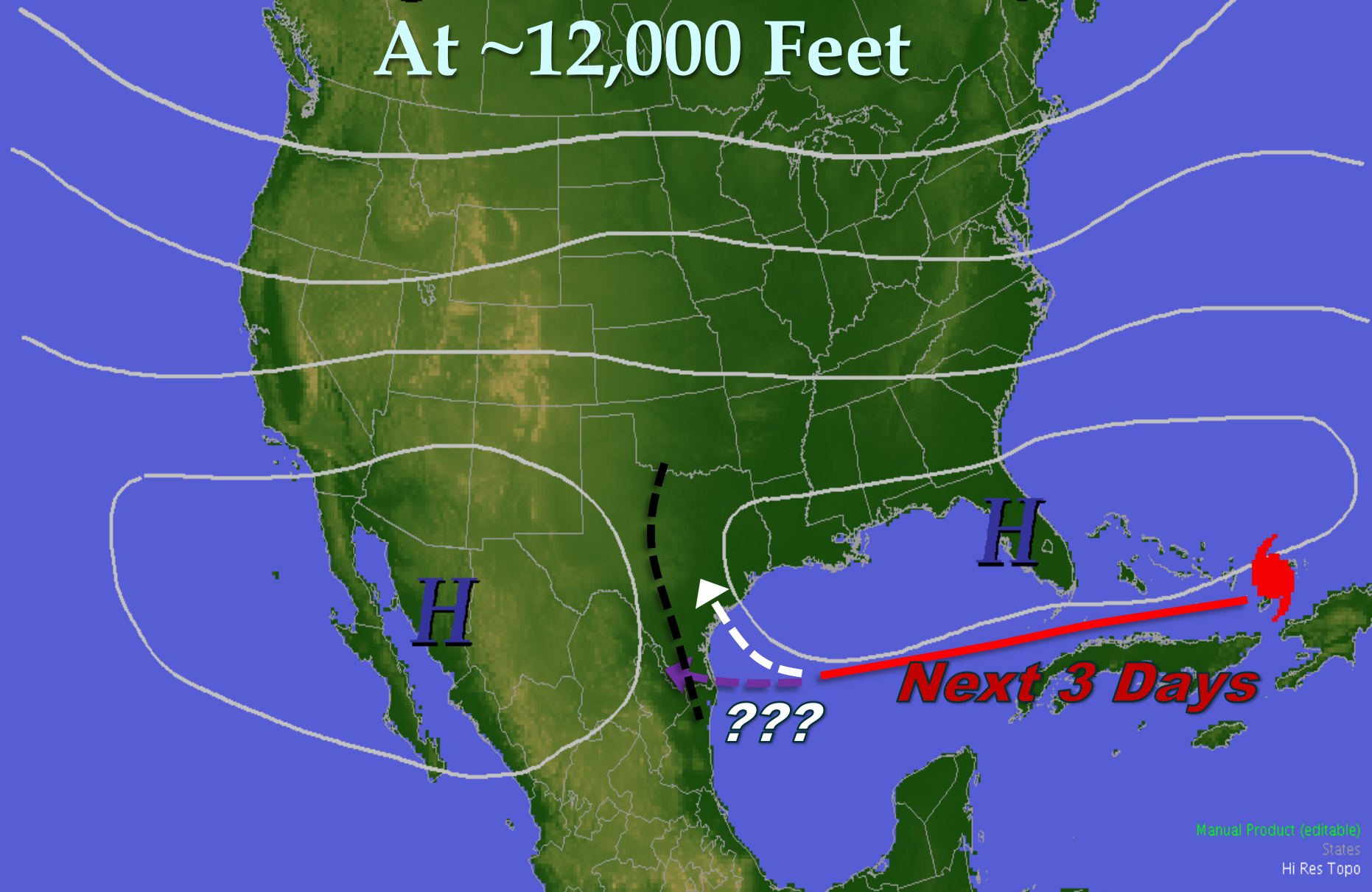


Center Location: 21.9 N 70.5 W Maximum Sustained Winds: 75 mph (Cat 1) Movement: 0 mph N

Sustained Wind Speeds:  tropical storm  $\geq 34\text{kt}/39\text{mph}$   strong tropical storm  $\geq 50\text{kt}/58\text{mph}$   hurricane  $\geq 64\text{kt}/74\text{mph}$

# Steering Pattern, Advisory #1

## At ~12,000 Feet





# TDEM Hurricane Matrix (72 - 120hrs from landfall)

|                     | Winds  | Surge                             | Rainfall/ Flooding  | Percentage of the Coast (Disregard for this Exercise) |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Low (1)</b>      | Tropical Storm (39-73 mph) or Category 1 (74-95 mph) force winds | Minor coastal flooding            | Minor flooding in low lying areas                                   | 25% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Moderate (2)</b> | Category 2 force winds (96-110mph)                               | Moderate coastal flooding         | Moderate flooding and flash flooding                                | 50% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>High (3)</b>     | Category 3 force winds (111-129mph)                              | Major coastal flooding            | Widespread flooding and flash flooding; rivers overflow their banks | 75% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Extreme (4)</b>  | Category 4 (130-156 mph) or 5 (> 157 mph) force winds            | Widespread major coastal flooding | Record or near-record flooding; several rivers overflow their banks | 100% of the TX Coastline                              |

# Threat Ranges/Suggested Actions

**1 to 3**

**Low.** Set up Contingency for Physical and Human Resources

**4 to 6**

**Moderate.** Activate Contingency. Ready resources for possible deployment (This will not cost \$\$)

**7 to 9**

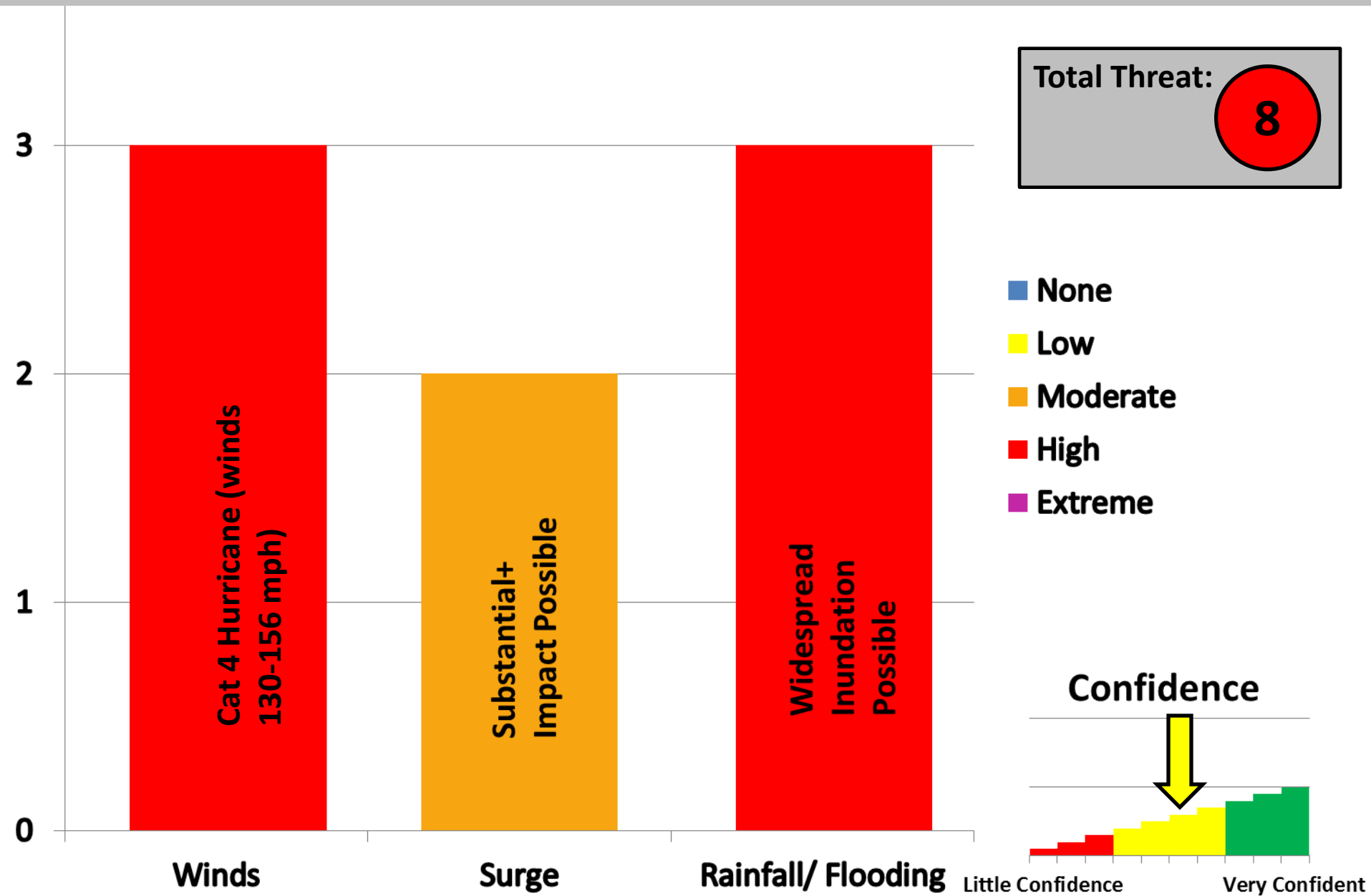
**High.** Move resources into position for expected deployment (This will cost \$\$)

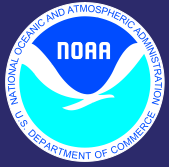
**10 to 12**

**Extreme.** Begin deployment (example: AirEvac, Bus movement, PUP/Depot opening and staffing. (This will cost \$\$)



# Threats from Hurricane Duff





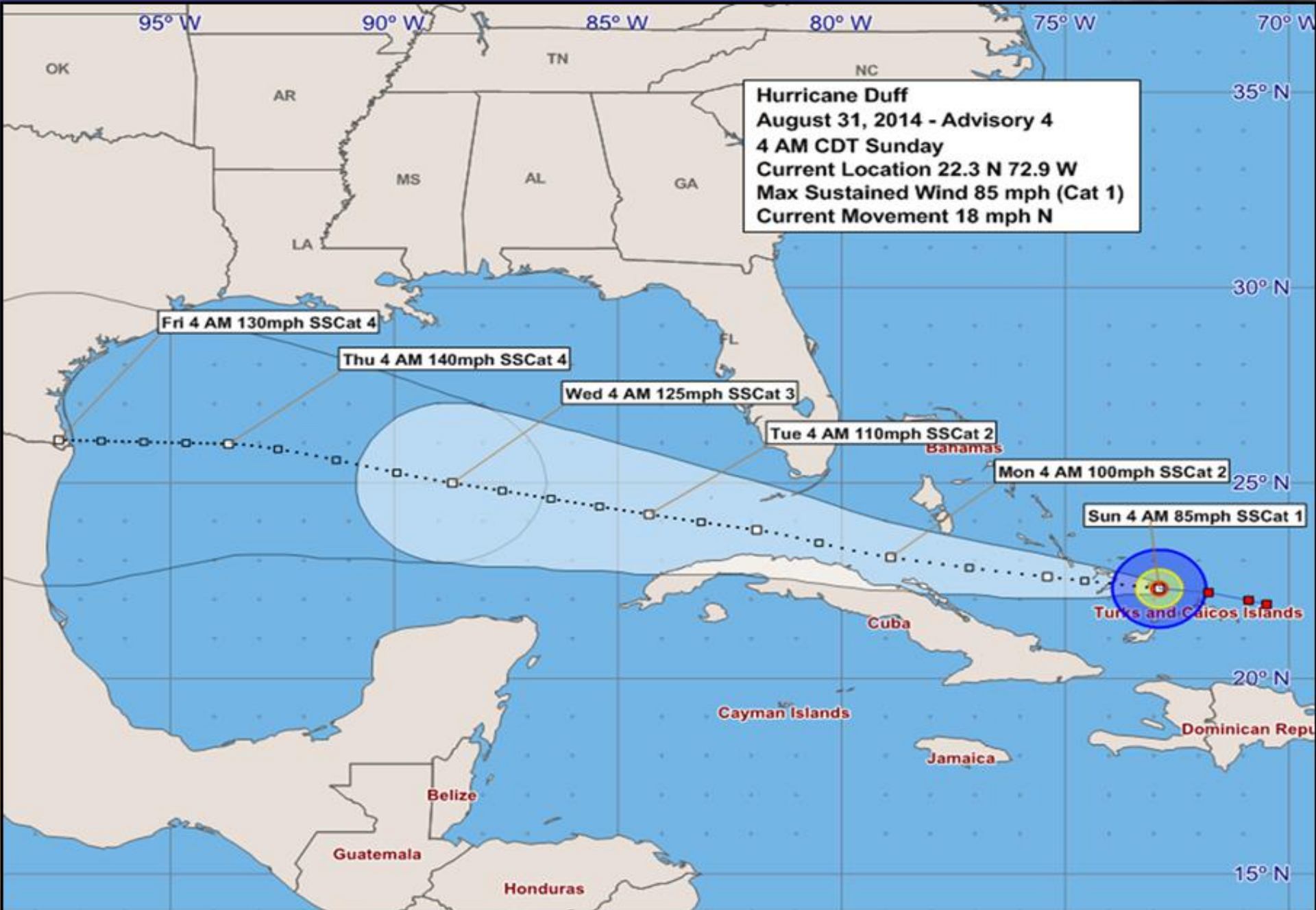
# Module 2 (H-96)



## August 31, 2014 (Advisory 4)

**At 4 AM CDT, the center of Hurricane Duff is located about 1600 miles east-southeast of Brownsville, Texas and moving toward the west-northwest at 18 mph. Duff is forecast to continue on this heading for the next few days passing through the Florida Straits and into the Gulf of Mexico. The maximum sustained winds are 85 mph and hurricane Duff is forecast to continue to strengthen, possibly becoming a major hurricane in about two days.**

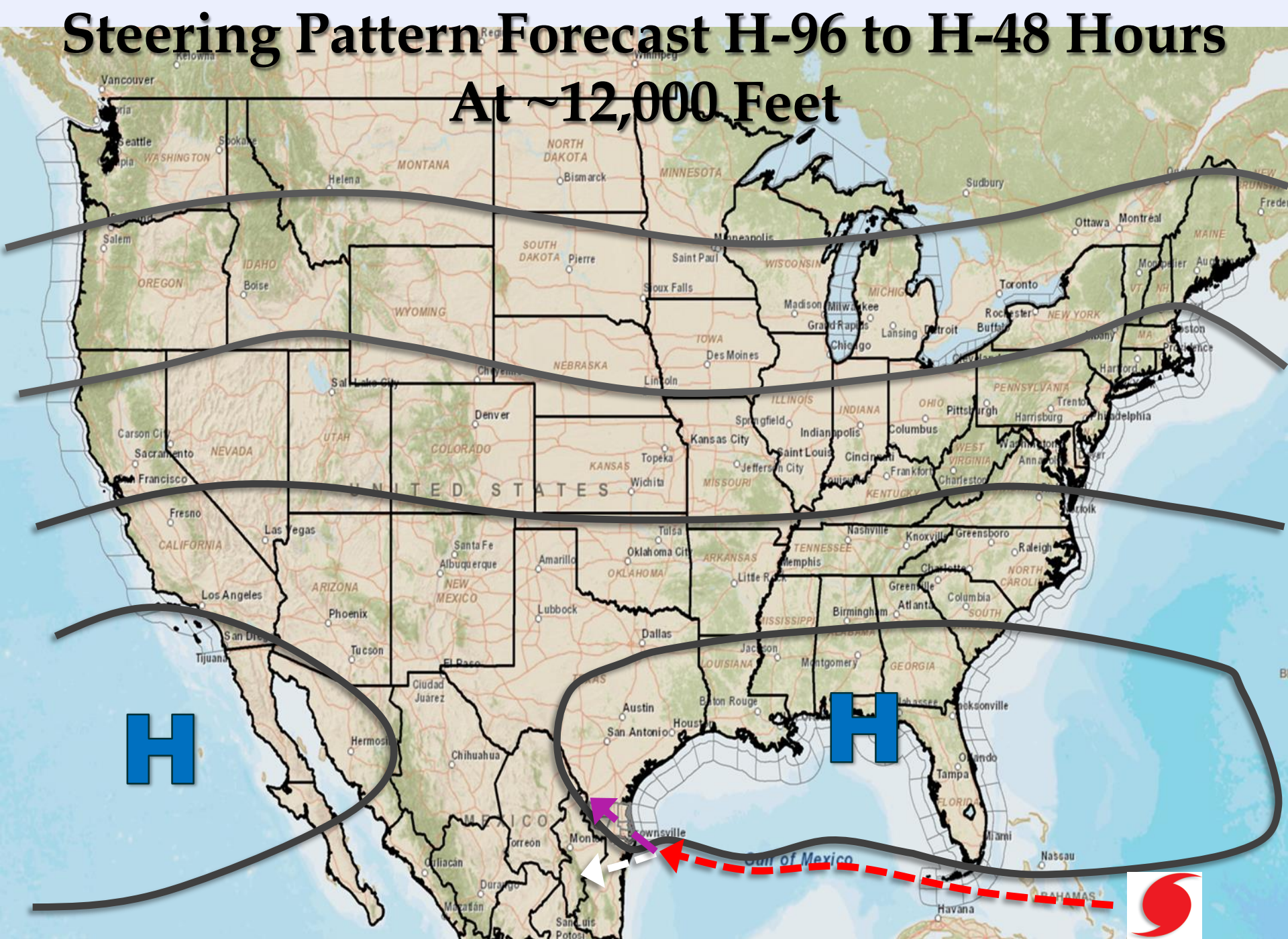
**Duff is moving along the southern periphery of a strong high pressure area and this is expected to remain in place during the entire forecast across the Gulf of Mexico. There is increasing confidence that Duff will become a major hurricane with the low shear environment. The models are indicating that Duff could also increase in size with its wind field expanding over the next few days. While Duff has yet to pass through the Florida Straits, based on the wind speed probabilities there is already about a 40% chance of experience tropical storm winds somewhere on the Texas coast and almost a 10% chance of Hurricane force.**



□ forecast positions    Potential Track Area: day 1-3    day 4-5    Wind Extents: at current location  
 Sustained Wind Speeds: tropical storm >= 34kt/39mph    strong tropical storm >= 50kt/58mph    hurricane >= 64kt/74mph



# Steering Pattern Forecast H-96 to H-48 Hours At ~12,000 Feet





# TDEM Hurricane Matrix (72 - 120hrs from landfall)

|                     | Winds  | Surge                             | Rainfall/ Flooding  | Percentage of the Coast (Disregard for this Exercise) |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Low (1)</b>      | Tropical Storm (39-73 mph) or Category 1 (74-95 mph) force winds | Minor coastal flooding            | Minor flooding in low lying areas                                   | 25% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Moderate (2)</b> | Category 2 force winds (96-110mph)                               | Moderate coastal flooding         | Moderate flooding and flash flooding                                | 50% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>High (3)</b>     | Category 3 force winds (111-129mph)                              | Major coastal flooding            | Widespread flooding and flash flooding; rivers overflow their banks | 75% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Extreme (4)</b>  | Category 4 (130-156 mph) or 5 (> 157 mph) force winds            | Widespread major coastal flooding | Record or near-record flooding; several rivers overflow their banks | 100% of the TX Coastline                              |

# Threat Ranges/Suggested Actions

**1 to 3**

**Low.** Set up Contingency for Physical and Human Resources

**4 to 6**

**Moderate.** Activate Contingency. Ready resources for possible deployment (This will not cost \$\$)

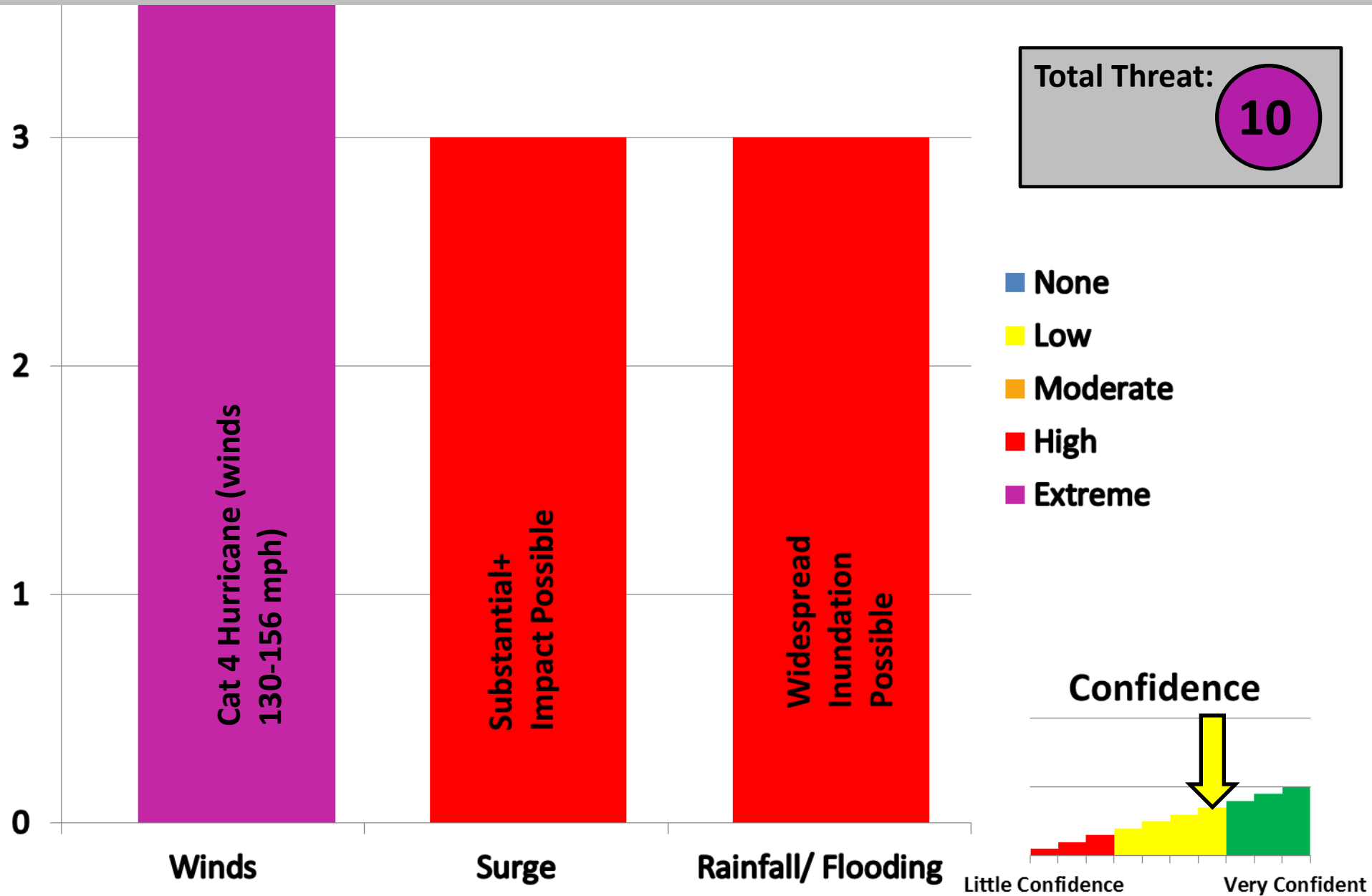
**7 to 9**

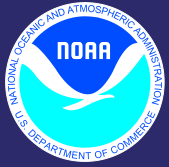
**High.** Move resources into position for expected deployment (This will cost \$\$)

**10 to 12**

**Extreme.** Begin deployment (example: AirEvac, Bus movement, PUP/Depot opening and staffing. (This will cost \$\$)

# Threats from Hurricane Duff





# Module 3 (H-72)

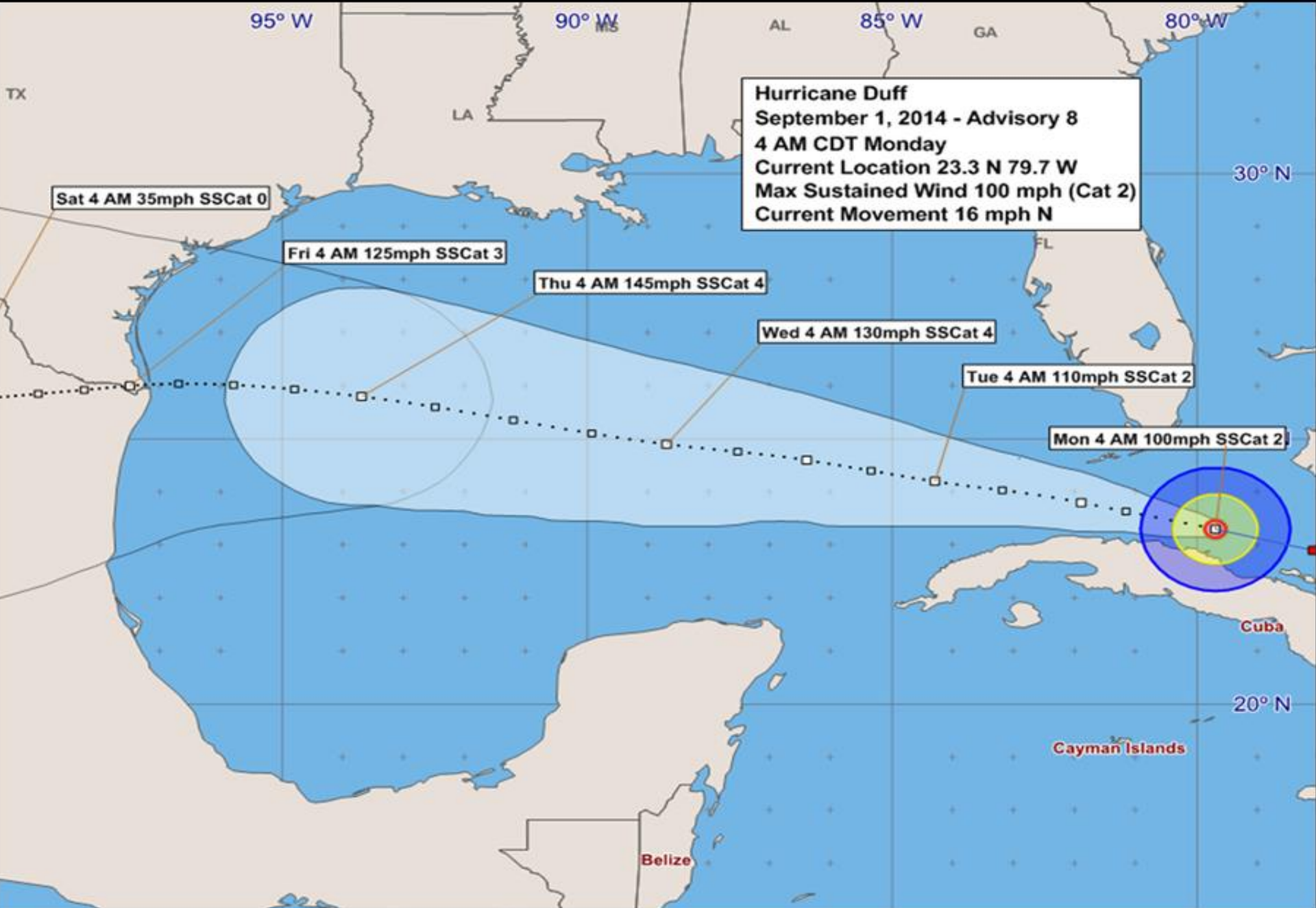


**September 1, 2014 (Advisory 8)**

**At 4 AM CDT, the center of Hurricane Duff is located about 1100 miles east-southeast of Brownsville, Texas and moving toward the west-northwest at 16 mph. The maximum sustained winds are 100 mph and Duff is now a category 2 hurricane. Duff is forecast to continue toward the west-northwest for the next few days as it crosses the Gulf of Mexico. On the current forecast, tropical storm winds could reach the lower Texas coast in about 3 days.**

**The intensity forecast has become more confident as it appears the structure of Duff won't be disrupted by Cuba as it passes to the north. The combination of a low shear environment and warm waters will mean that Duff should continue to strengthen and could become a major hurricane by tomorrow. With a growing wind field and the persistent pooling of Gulf water, storm surge could begin to affect areas along the Texas coast well in advance of the first tropical storm winds.**



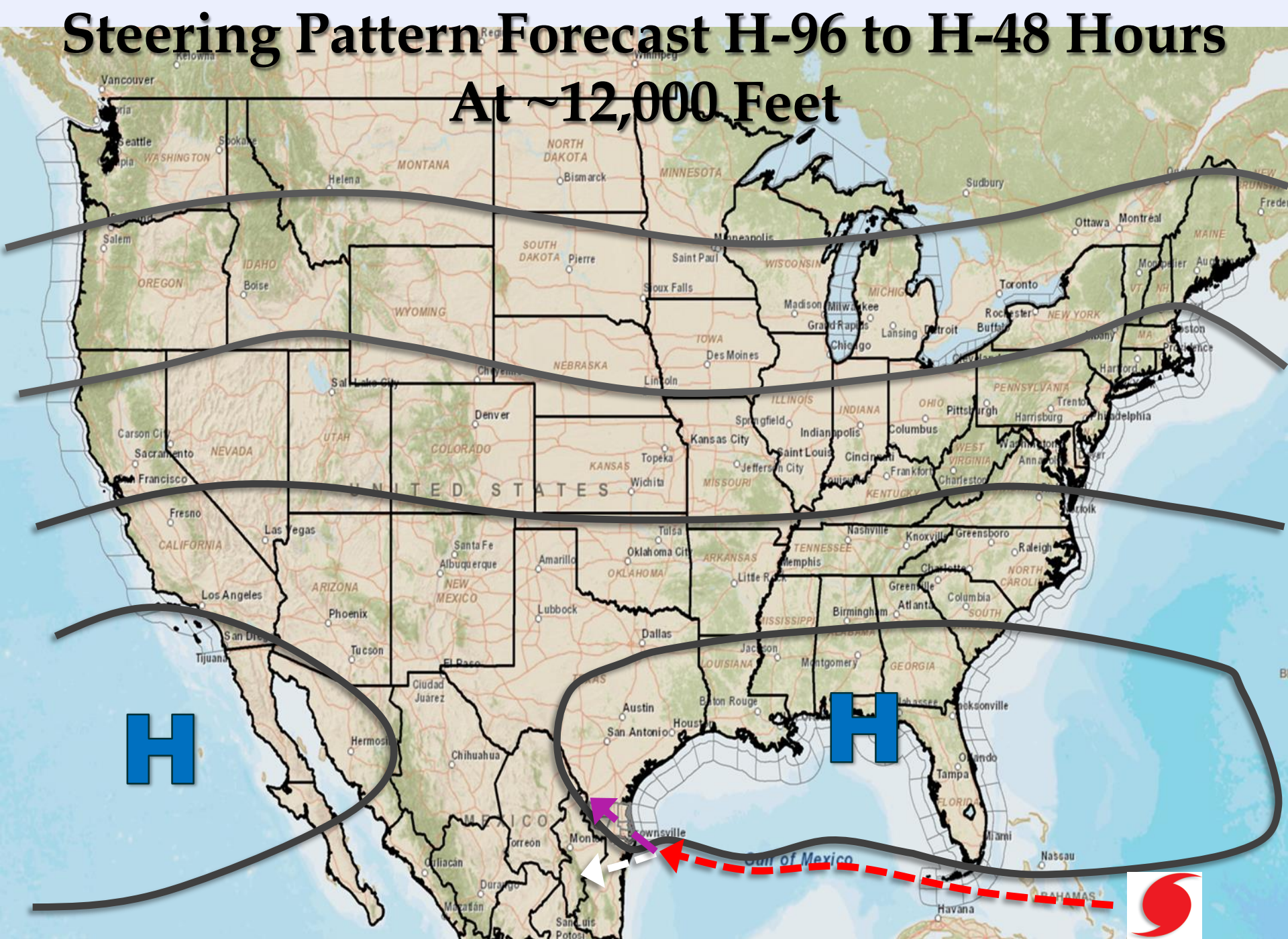


□ forecast positions    Potential Track Area:    day 1-3    day 4-5    Wind Extents:    at current location

Sustained Wind Speeds:    tropical storm  $\geq 34$ kt/39mph    strong tropical storm  $\geq 50$ kt/58mph    hurricane  $\geq 64$ kt/74mph



# Steering Pattern Forecast H-96 to H-48 Hours At ~12,000 Feet



# TDEM Hurricane Matrix (72 - 120hrs from landfall)

|                     | Winds  | Surge                             | Rainfall/ Flooding  | Percentage of the Coast (Disregard for this Exercise) |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Low (1)</b>      | Tropical Storm (39-73 mph) or Category 1 (74-95 mph) force winds | Minor coastal flooding            | Minor flooding in low lying areas                                   | 25% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Moderate (2)</b> | Category 2 force winds (96-110mph)                               | Moderate coastal flooding         | Moderate flooding and flash flooding                                | 50% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>High (3)</b>     | Category 3 force winds (111-129mph)                              | Major coastal flooding            | Widespread flooding and flash flooding; rivers overflow their banks | 75% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Extreme (4)</b>  | Category 4 (130-156 mph) or 5 (> 157 mph) force winds            | Widespread major coastal flooding | Record or near-record flooding; several rivers overflow their banks | 100% of the TX Coastline                              |

# Threat Ranges/Suggested Actions

**1 to 3**

**Low.** Set up Contingency for Physical and Human Resources

**4 to 6**

**Moderate.** Activate Contingency. Ready resources for possible deployment (This will not cost \$\$)

**7 to 9**

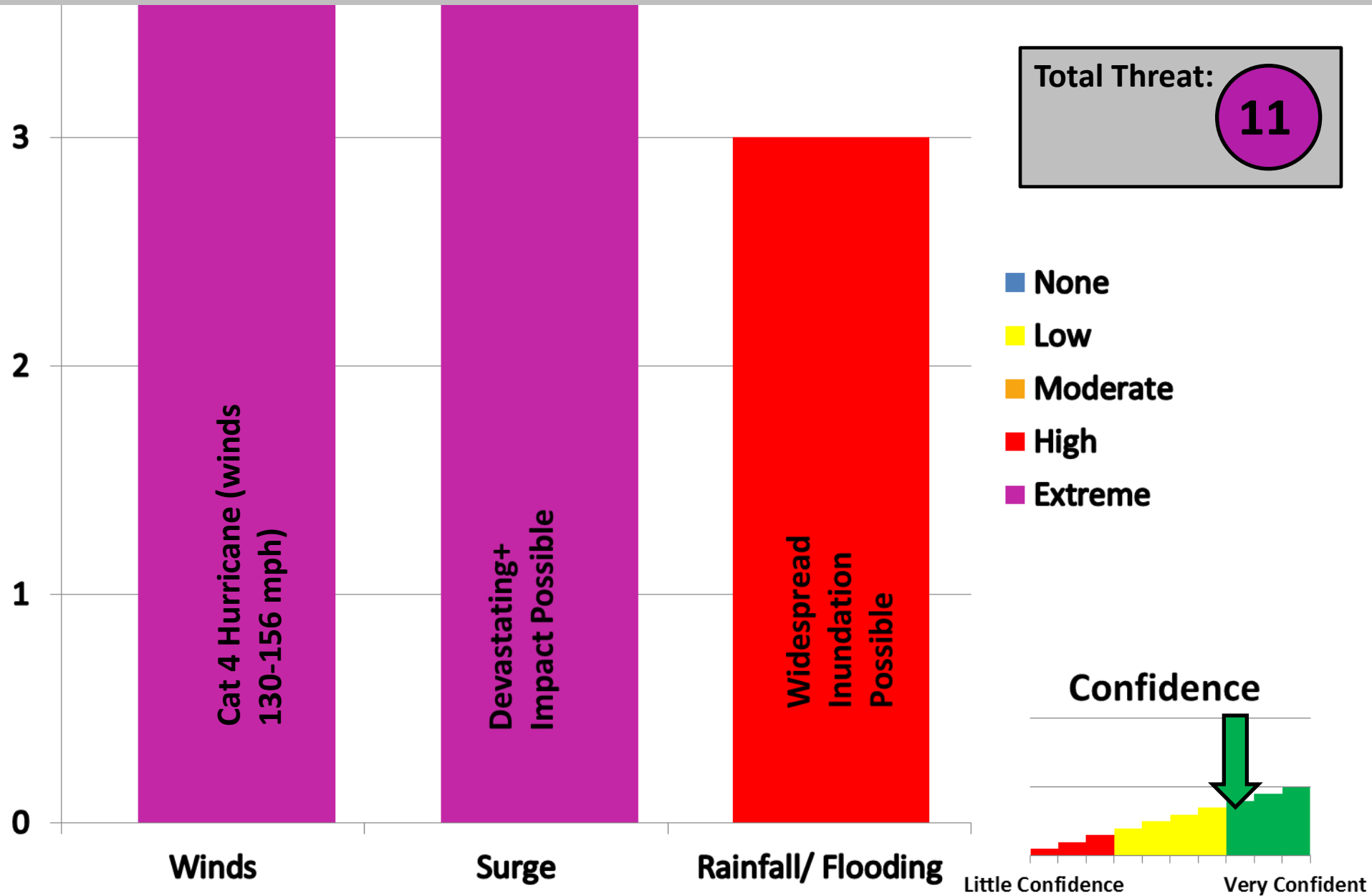
**High.** Move resources into position for expected deployment (This will cost \$\$)

**10 to 12**

**Extreme.** Begin deployment (example: AirEvac, Bus movement, PUP/Depot opening and staffing. (This will cost \$\$)

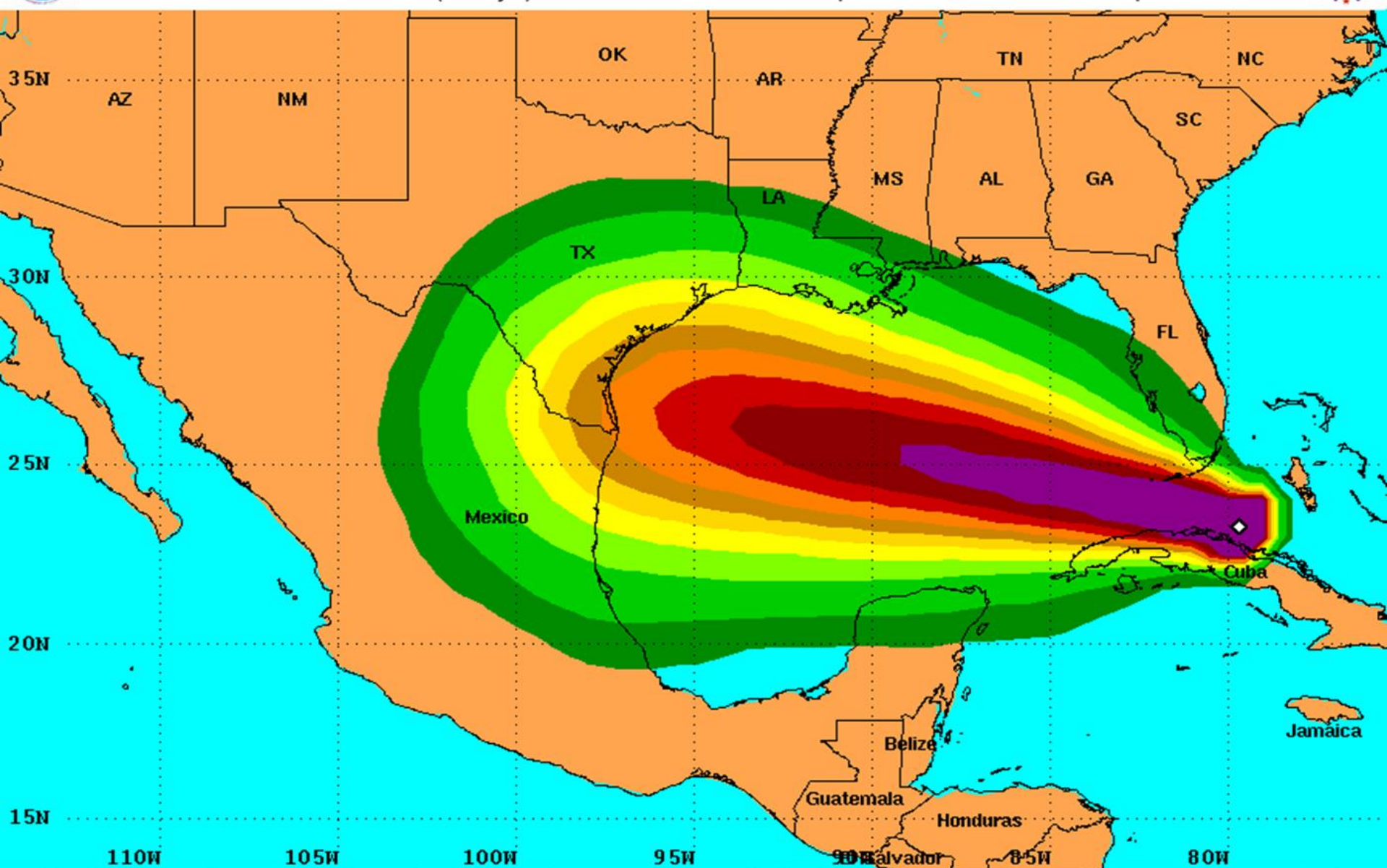


# Threats from Hurricane Duff



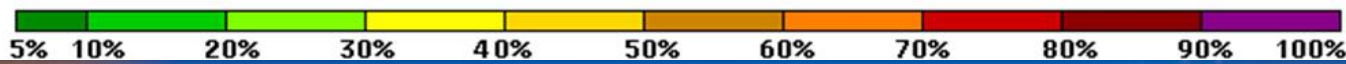


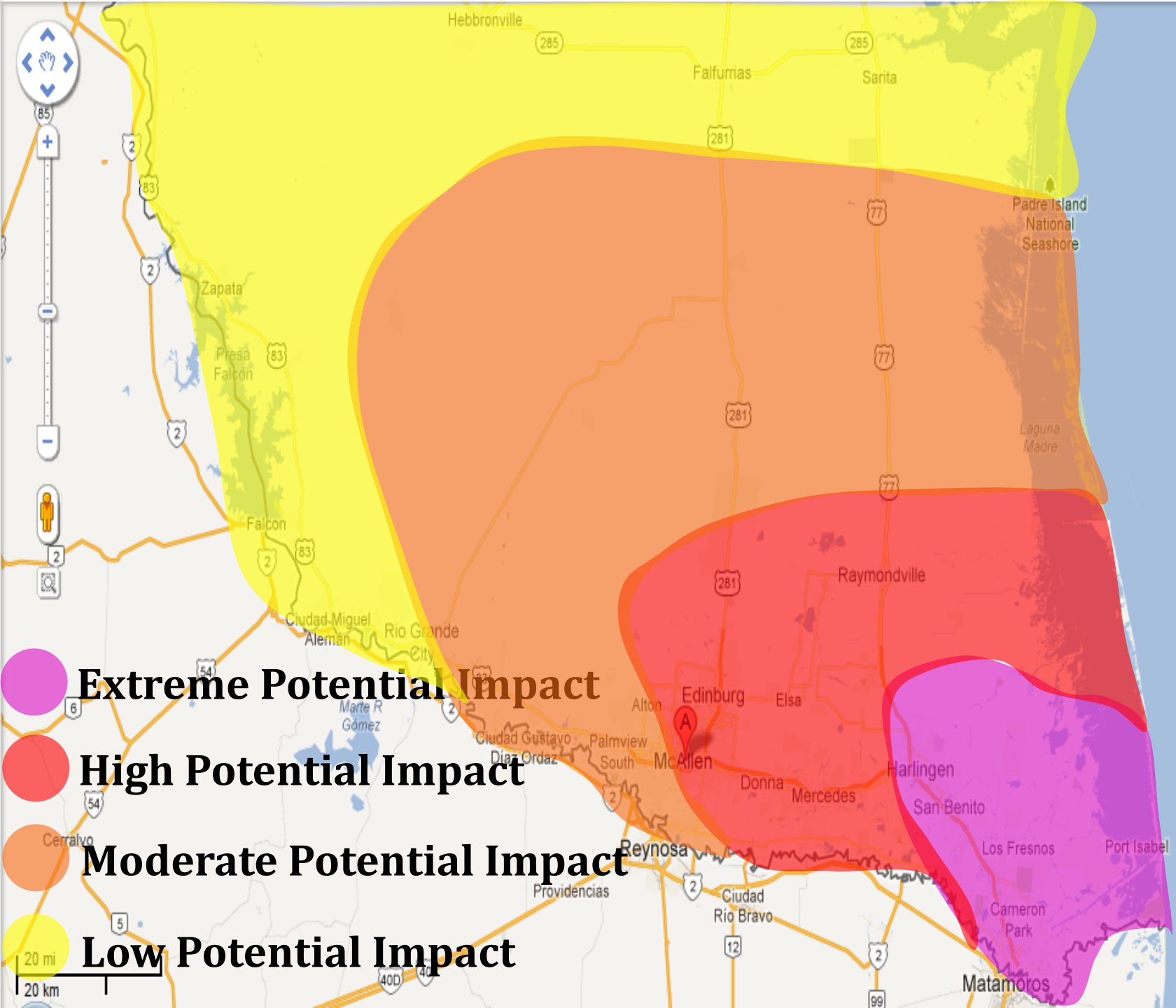
# PRELIMINARY (SINGLE STORM) Tropical Storm Force Wind Speed Probabilities For the 120 hours (5 days) from 2 AM EDT Mon Sep 1 to 2 AM EDT Sat Sep 6







Probability of sustained tropical storm force surface winds (1-minute average of 39 mph or greater)

◊ indicates HURRICANE DUFF center location at 2 AM EDT Mon Sep 1 2014 (Forecast/Advisory #8)





-  **Extreme Potential Impact**
-  **High Potential Impact**
-  **Moderate Potential Impact**
-  **Low Potential Impact**



| Impact Levels   | Wind – Potential Impact Descriptions  |
|---|---|
| <b>Cameron and Willacy County, Along/East of Highway 77</b> | <p><b>Potential for Extreme Impact:</b> Extremely dangerous and life-threatening winds may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of devastating to catastrophic wind damage.</p> <p><b>Devastating Damage</b> – If realized, all older mobile homes will be destroyed. Houses of poor to average construction will be destroyed or severely damaged. Moderate to major damage of well-constructed houses will include up to one half of all gabled roofs. Also, a significant number of exterior walls will fail. Aluminum and light weight steel roofs will be torn off buildings at industrial parks. Partial roof and exterior wall failure are likely at low rise apartment buildings, especially those of poor to average construction. Most windows in tall buildings will be blown out, with other minor to moderate damage possible due to swaying. Airborne debris of light to moderate weight will cause additional major damage, as well as injuries and possible loss of life.</p> <p>Near total power loss is expected. Many power poles will be knocked down, and numerous transformers will pop. Outages will last for weeks in some areas. The availability of potable water will be diminished as filtration systems begin to fail.</p> <p>Thousands of trees will be severely damaged. Up to three quarters of all healthy small to medium sized trees will snap or uproot, especially on saturated ground. Severe damage is expected to citrus orchards; some orchards may face total destruction. Most newly planted ground crops will be wiped out. Livestock left to weather the storm will be injured, some critically. Some livestock deaths are likely.</p> |
| <b>Extreme</b>  | <p>Descriptions are consistent with sustained hurricane force winds or frequent gusts of Category 3 intensity (111 to 130 mph) as realized in hardest hit places.</p> <p><b>Catastrophic Damage</b> – If realized, damage will be unprecedented. Much of the affected area will be uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer in spots. At least one half of well-constructed homes will have roof and wall failure. All gabled roofs will fail, and most of those homes will be destroyed. The majority of industrial buildings will become non-functional; partial to complete wall and roof damage is likely. All wood framed low rising apartment buildings will be destroyed. Concrete block or brick low rise apartments will have major damage, including some wall and roof failure. Tall buildings will sway dangerously and have most windows blown out; a few may collapse. Airborne debris will be widespread and include heavy items such as household appliances and even some light automobiles. Sport utility vehicles and light trucks will be moved or tossed. The blown debris will create</p>  |



## High

## McAllen, Edinburg, Mercedes, Pharr, Weslaco/Donna

**Potential for High Impact:** Dangerous and life-threatening winds may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of major wind damage. If realized, the majority of older mobile homes will be severely damaged or destroyed. Those that remain will be uninhabitable until repaired. Houses of poor to average construction will have major damage including partial wall collapse and roofs being lifted off. Many will be uninhabitable until repaired. Well-constructed houses will have minor to moderate damage to shingles, siding, and gutters. Many unprotected and exposed windows will be blown out. Partial roof failure is expected in industrial parks, especially to those buildings with light weight steel and aluminum coverings. Older low-rising apartment roofs may also be torn off, as well as siding and shingle damage. Airborne debris will cause damage, injury, and possible death. Power outages will be widespread, and could continue for multiple weeks in some areas. Numerous power lines will be pulled down, and a number of power poles will fall.

All trees with rotting bases will uproot or snap. Nearly all large healthy branches will snap. Some healthy trees will uproot, especially where ground is saturated. Major damage is expected to citrus orchards. Most newly planted crops will be damaged.

Descriptions are consistent with sustained hurricane force winds or frequent gusts of Category 2 intensity (96 to 110 mph) as realized in hardest hit places.

## Moderate

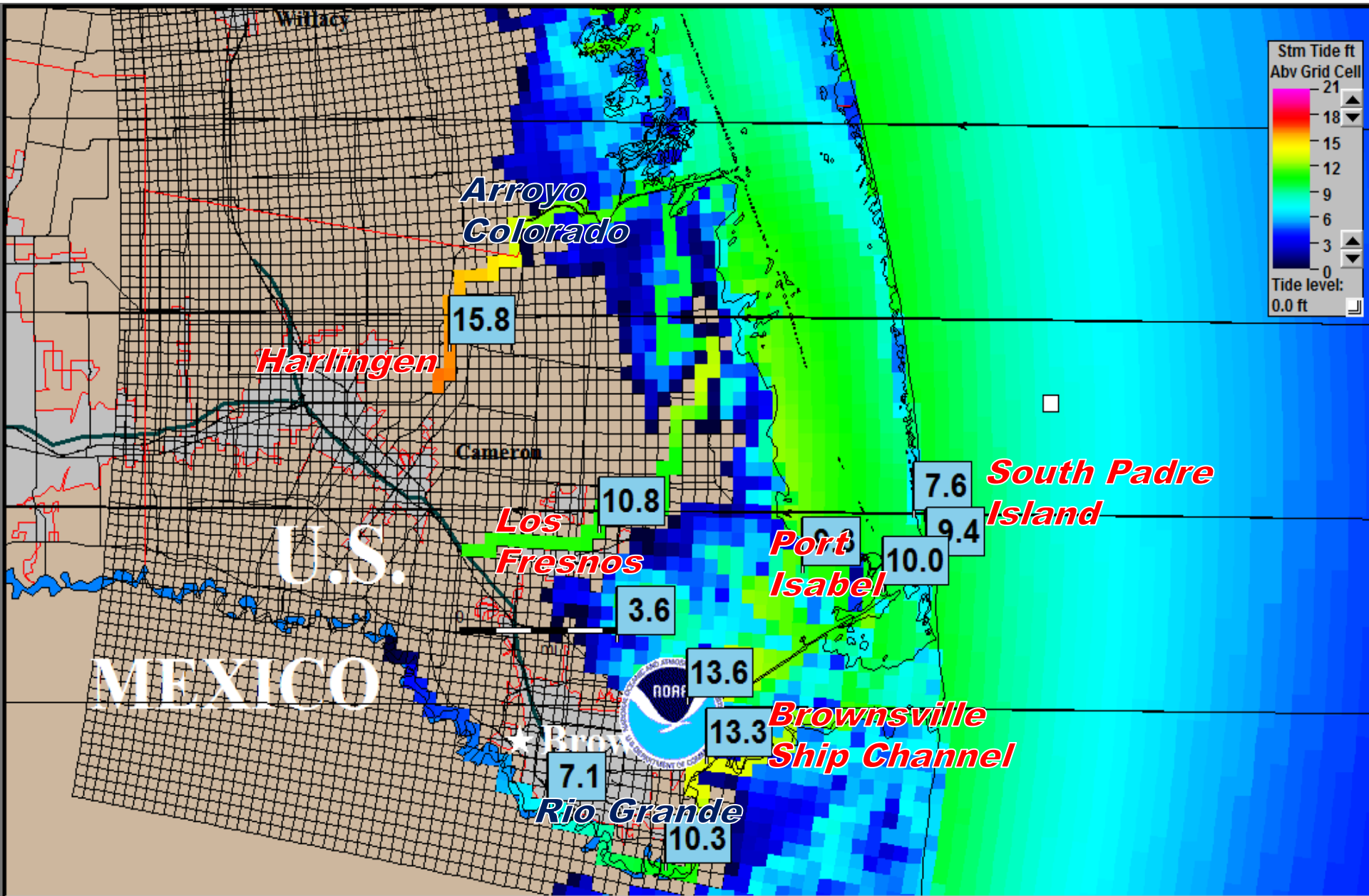
## La Joya, Sullivan City, La Grulla, Rio Grande City

**Potential for Moderate Impact:** Preparations should be made for the threat of moderate wind damage. If realized, most mobile homes will experience moderate to substantial damage; those of poor construction will be destroyed. Houses of poor to average construction will have significant damage to shingles, siding, and gutters; more serious structural damage is possible. Unprotected and exposed windows are at risk of being blown out. Many screened patios will be damaged. Some well-constructed homes will also see shingle and siding damage. Unfastened light to moderate weight items will become airborne, causing additional damage and possible injury. Hundreds of power lines will be blown down; local outages will affect entire neighborhoods.

Many large branches of healthy trees will be snapped, and rotting small to medium sized trees will be uprooted. Numerous palm fronds will be blown down, and minor to moderate damage will occur to citrus orchards and newly planted lowland crops.

Descriptions are consistent with sustained hurricane force winds or frequent gusts of Category 1 intensity (74 to 95 mph) as realized in hardest hit places.

# Potential Inundation, Duff (First Guess)



# Duff - Potential Flooding from the Sea

your emergency action plan

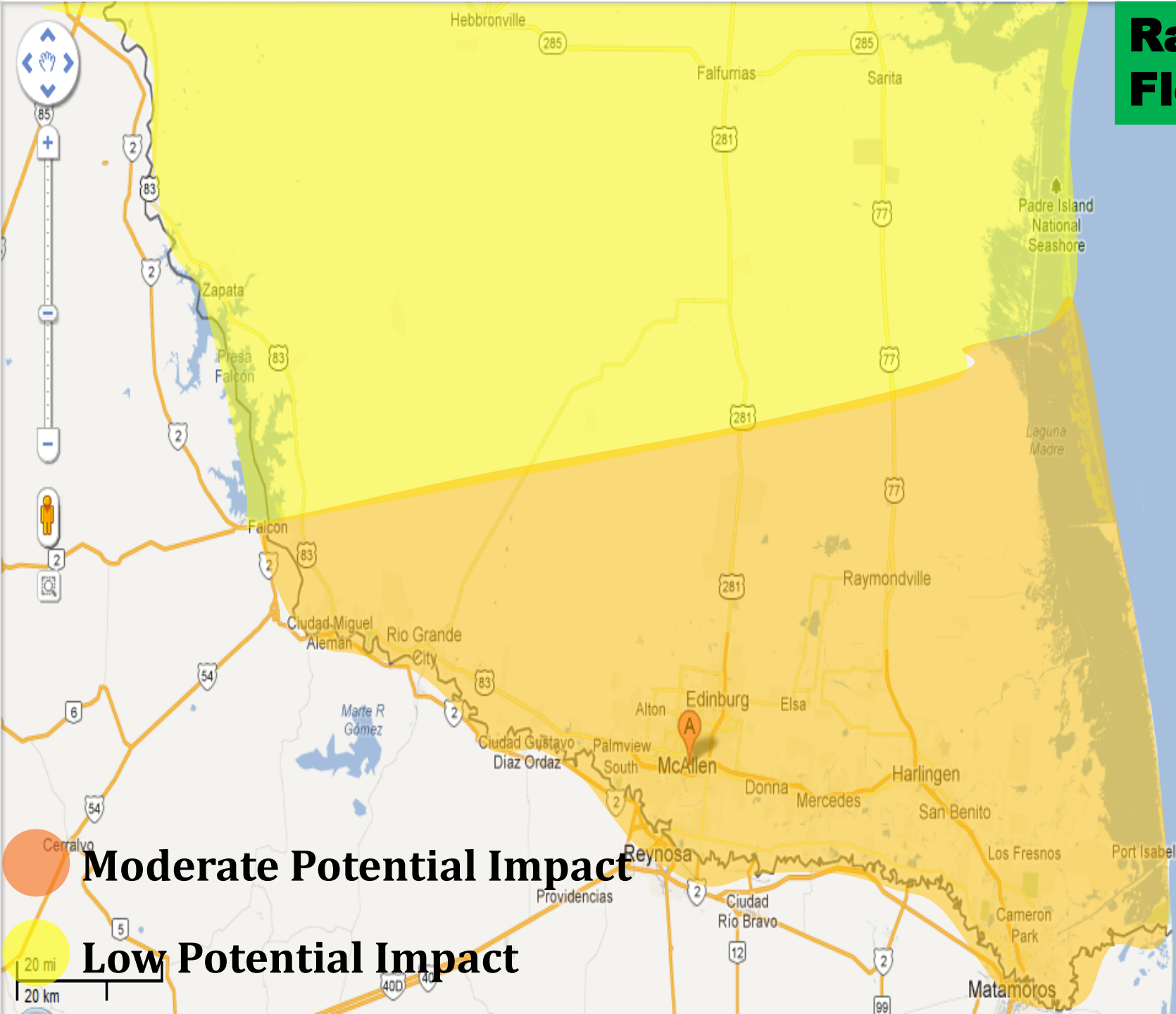
## Extreme

**Potential for Extreme Impact:** Extremely dangerous and life-threatening inundation may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of catastrophic coastal flood damage from sea water. If realized, coastal cities and towns will be inundated, perhaps entirely. Within mandatory evacuation areas, persons who fail to leave will be swept to their deaths, as will outdoor animals and livestock. Some beaches will be destroyed beyond recognition and new inland cuts will be created. Hundreds of structures will be significantly flooded or washed away. Condominiums and hotels will also be devastated, some to the point of collapse. Damage will be accentuated by considerable floating debris. Extensive damage is expected to marinas, docks, and piers. Numerous small craft will break away from their moorings.

Vehicles left behind within evacuation areas will be swept away. Dozens, if not hundreds, of roads will be overspread or washed away; full recovery will take months, if not years. Sea water many feet in depth may reach more than a mile inland. Flood conditions will be worsened by intense battering waves on top of storm surge and tide. Such waves will exacerbate property damage and wash out solid road and bridge structures. Damage from beach erosion will take years to restore.

Descriptions are consistent with the likelihood for widespread inundation with local water depths greater than 7 feet (above ground level) in hardest hit places. Relative to impact potential, coastal flooding may be historic since there are no recent comparable events which have occurred along or near the coast of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

# Rainfall Flooding





# Duff - Potential Rainfall Flooding

## Moderate

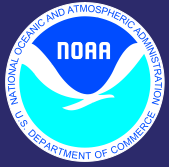
**Potential for Moderate Impact:** Residents should prepare for areas of flooding, especially in poor drainage locations. If realized, minor to moderate property damage will occur and several main thoroughfares may be closed. Known intersections with very poor drainage may experience 2 to 4 feet of flood water. Other poor drainage areas may have flood water depth up to 2 feet. Most small streams and arroyos will approach, or possibly exceed, bankfull.

Descriptions are consistent with a significant threat to life and property and the likelihood for rain totals to exceed flash flood thresholds.

## Low

**Potential for Low but Concerning Impact:** Residents should prepare for areas of nuisance flooding along with isolated minor flooding. Some ponding will occur elsewhere. Known roadway intersections having very poor drainage may temporarily experience 1 to 2 feet of flood water. Other poor drainage areas will have flood water depth up to 1 foot.

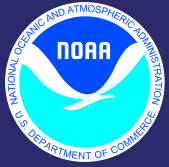
Descriptions are consistent with an elevated threat to life and property and the likelihood for higher rain totals to approach flash flood thresholds.



# NWS Key Points (ADVISORY 8)



- ❑ Confidence has increased on potential for devastating damage for parts of Rio Grande Valley
- ❑ Destructive Winds, Potential for Demolition of Poorly Built Structures Along/East of US 77
- ❑ Storm Surge: Potential for 1933 or Worse Event
  - 13+ feet of water depth in some areas possible
  - Exact location of highest surge cannot be pinpointed this far out, nor can tide addition or subtraction
  - Surge will begin impacting SPI and Port Isabel 24-36 hours ahead of “H” time with some neighborhoods potentially getting cut off
- ❑ Rainfall Flooding will be problem in poor drainage areas; too early to tell coverage and intensity
- ❑ Not expecting significant post-event Rio Grande flooding
  - No Alex or Gilbert; Reservoirs can handle water inflows



# Module 4 (Scenario #2)



**July 26, 2000 (Xena Advisories)**

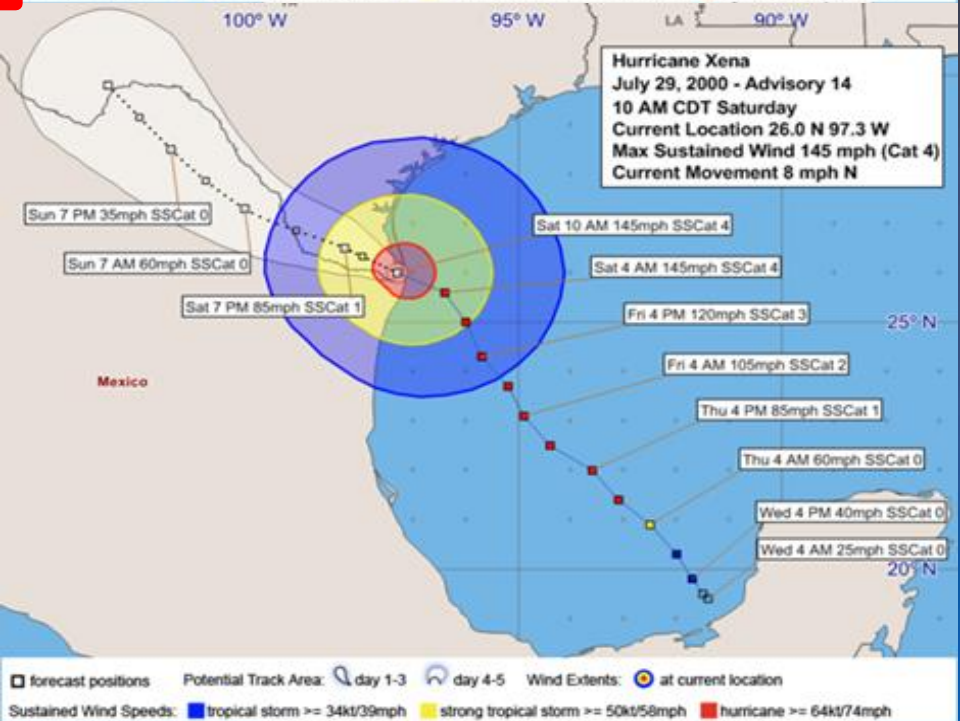
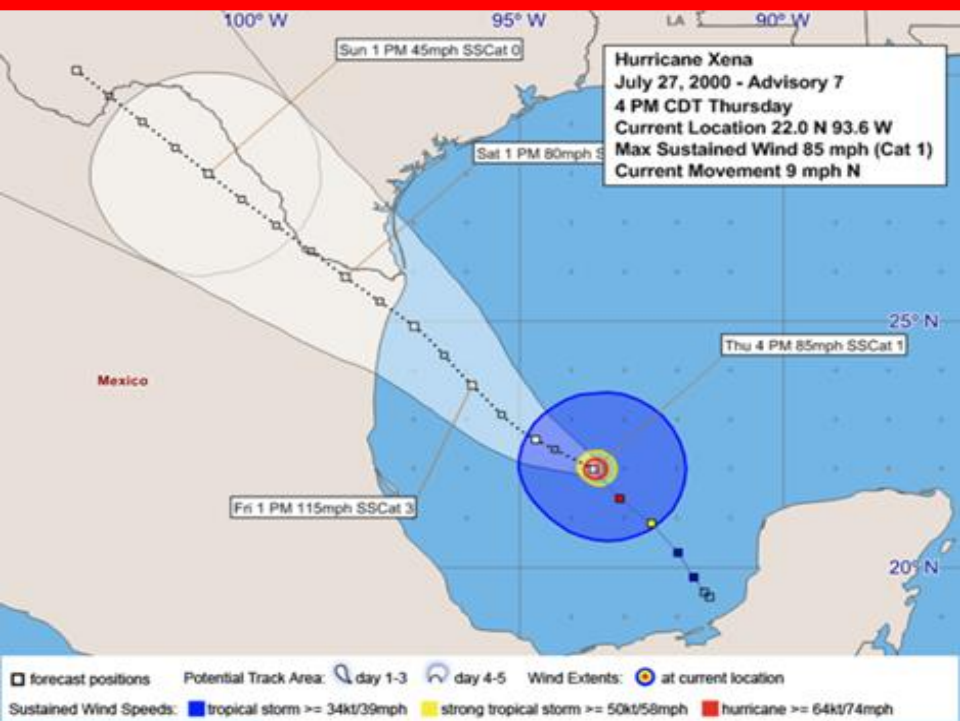
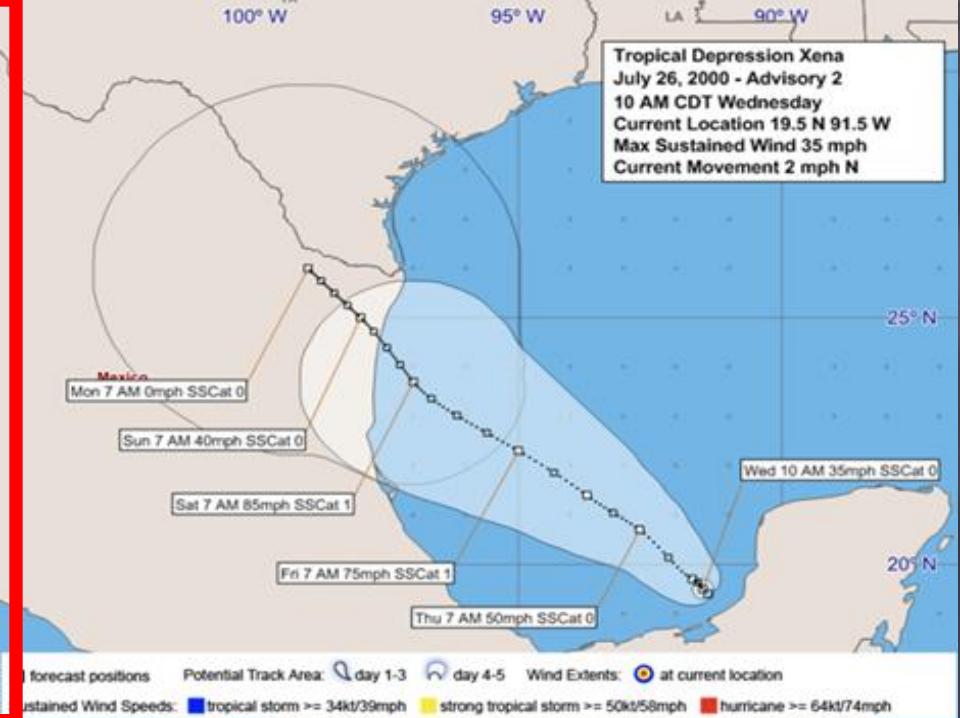
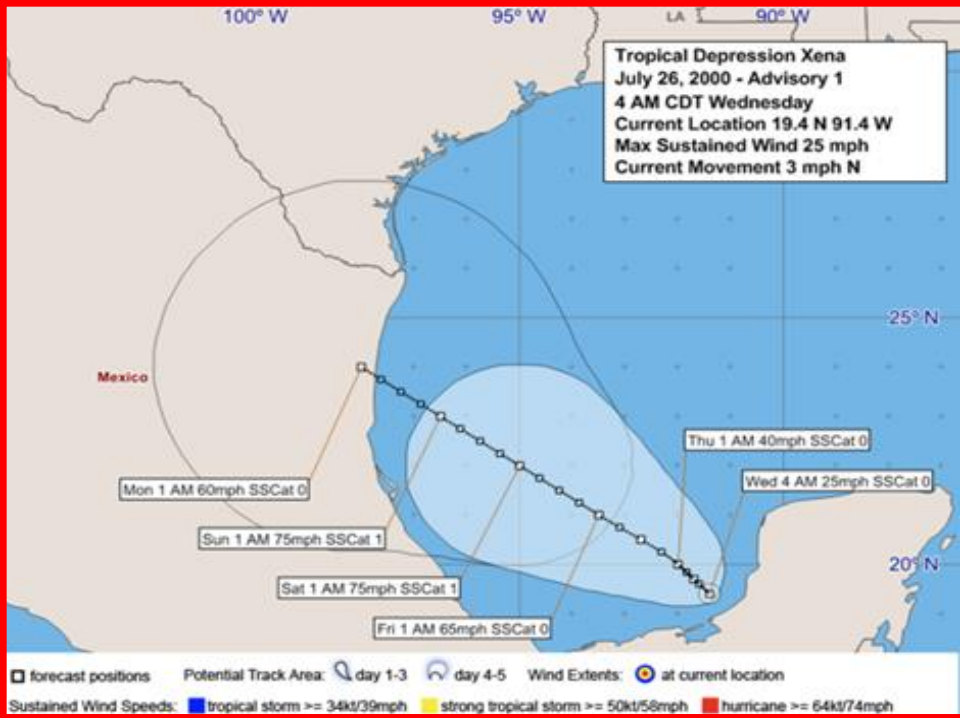
**Tropical Depression Xena forms in the Bay of Campeche on the morning of July 26. The initial forecast has slow development with a forecast that keeps all of the hazards south of Texas.**

**Six hours later the forecast shifts northward with Xena reaching the upper Mexican coast as a Hurricane with Tropical Storm force winds arriving at BRO in about H-72 hrs.**

**Another six hours later (4pm July 26) Tropical Storm Xena is forecast to strengthen more and the Tropical Storm force winds arrival is faster, now at H-48 hrs.**

**By 4pm on July 27, Hurricane Xena is forecast to be a Category 3 hurricane when it reaches the coast just south of the Mexico/US border. The onset time of Tropical Storm force winds is now H-36 hrs.**

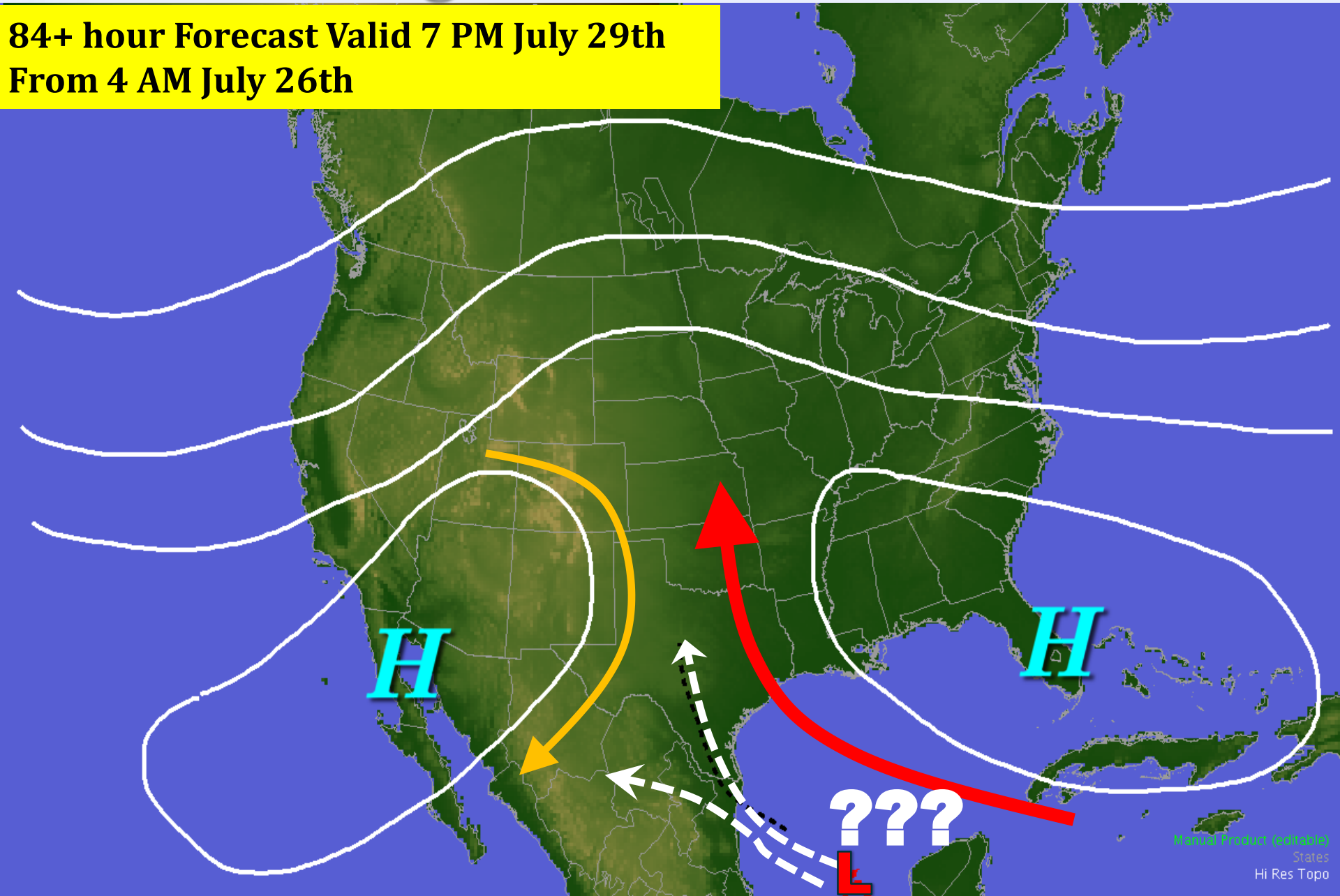
**Xena makes landfall at Brownsville as a Category 4 Hurricane on the morning of July 29. Xena forms and makes landfall in just under H-80 hrs.**



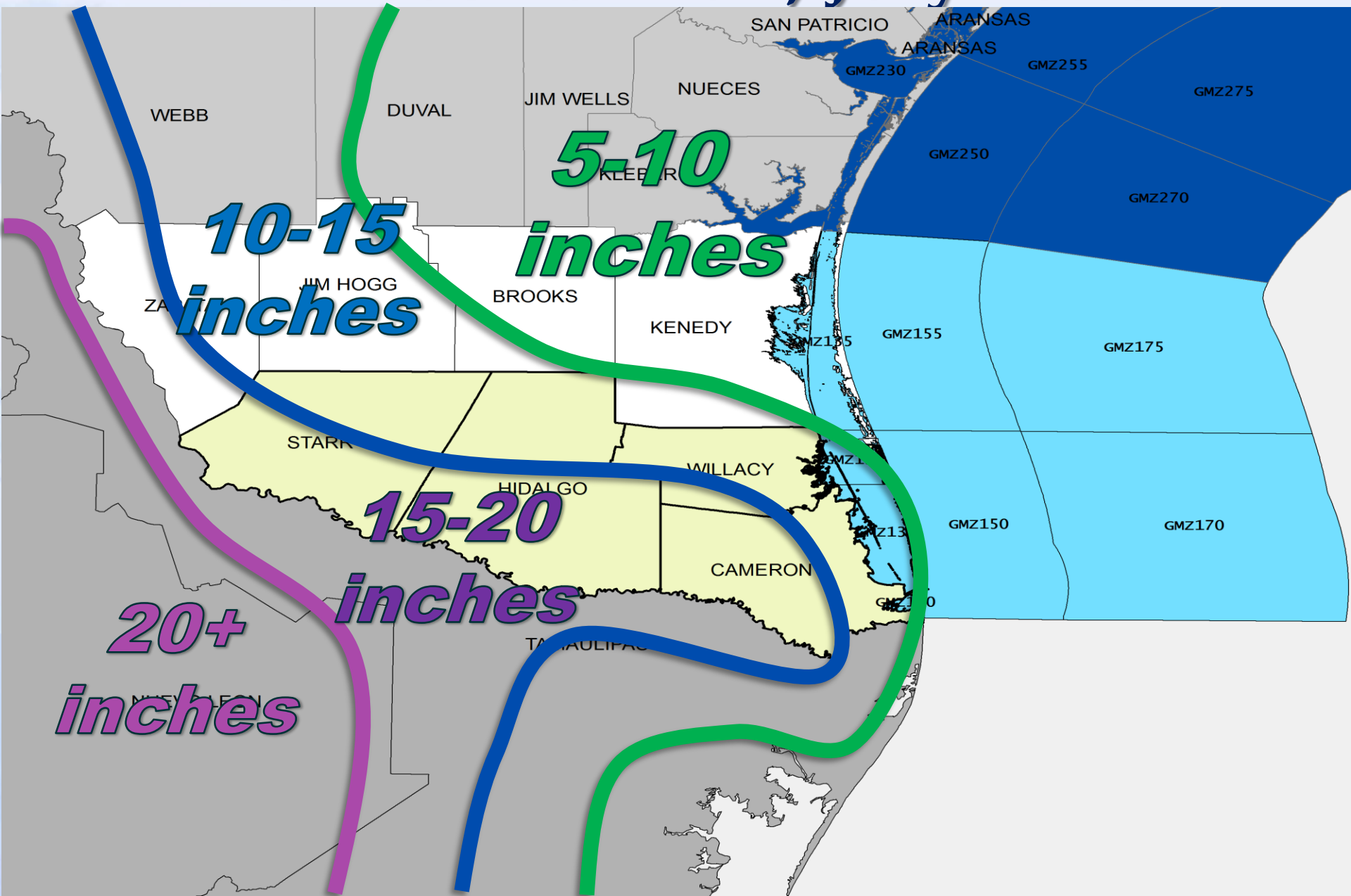


# Steering Winds at 12,000 Feet

84+ hour Forecast Valid 7 PM July 29th  
From 4 AM July 26th



# Previous Rainfall, July 16-23



# TDEM Hurricane Matrix (72 - 120hrs from landfall)

|                     | Winds  | Surge                             | Rainfall/ Flooding  | Percentage of the Coast (Disregard for this Exercise) |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Low (1)</b>      | Tropical Storm (39-73 mph) or Category 1 (74-95 mph) force winds | Minor coastal flooding            | Minor flooding in low lying areas                                   | 25% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Moderate (2)</b> | Category 2 force winds (96-110mph)                               | Moderate coastal flooding         | Moderate flooding and flash flooding                                | 50% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>High (3)</b>     | Category 3 force winds (111-129mph)                              | Major coastal flooding            | Widespread flooding and flash flooding; rivers overflow their banks | 75% of the TX Coastline                               |
| <b>Extreme (4)</b>  | Category 4 (130-156 mph) or 5 (> 157 mph) force winds            | Widespread major coastal flooding | Record or near-record flooding; several rivers overflow their banks | 100% of the TX Coastline                              |

# Threat Ranges/Suggested Actions

**1 to 3**

**Low.** Set up Contingency for Physical and Human Resources

**4 to 6**

**Moderate.** Activate Contingency. Ready resources for possible deployment (This will not cost \$\$)

**7 to 9**

**High.** Move resources into position for expected deployment (This will cost \$\$)

**10 to 12**

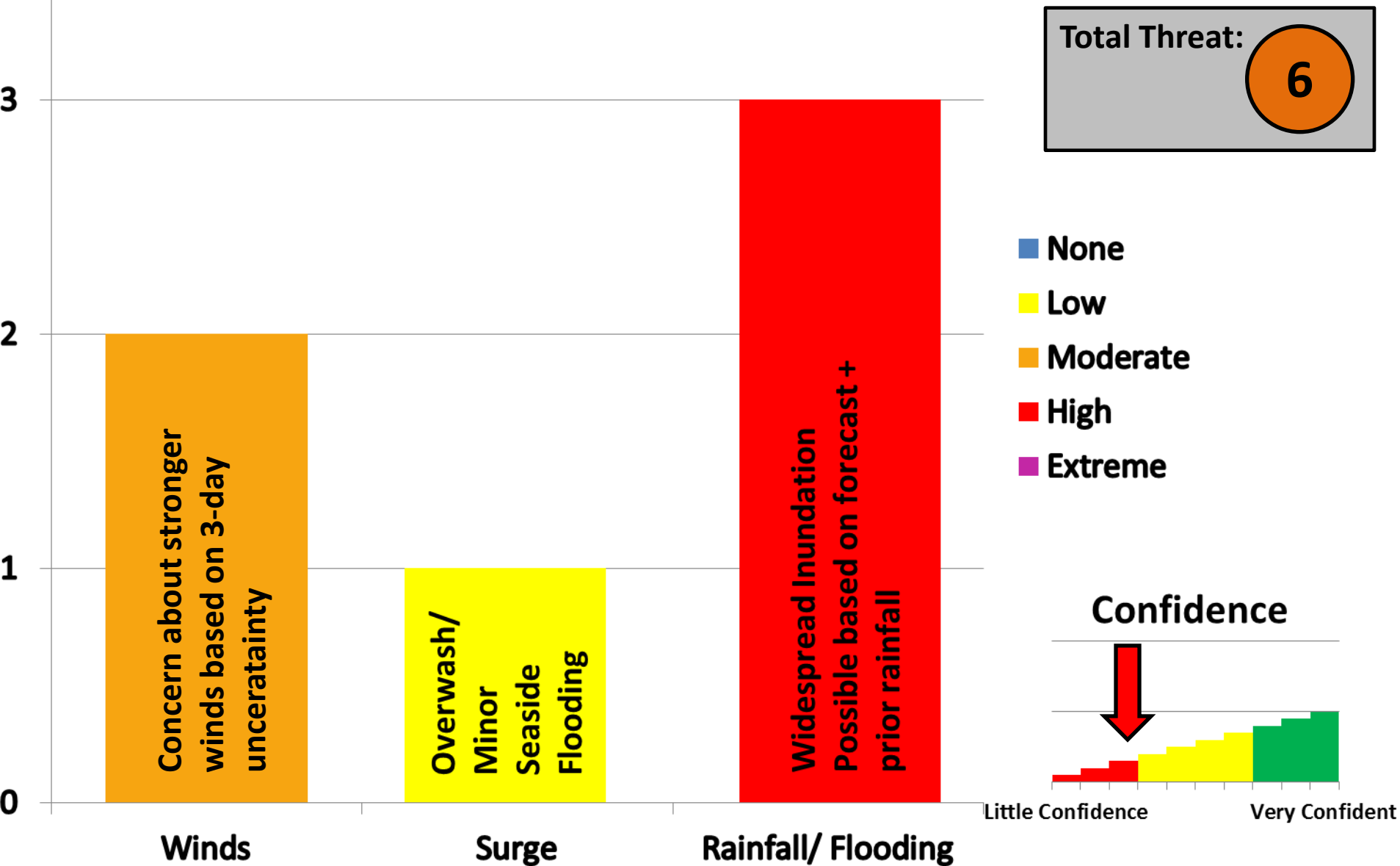
**Extreme.** Begin deployment (example: AirEvac, Bus movement, PUP/Depot opening and staffing. (This will cost \$\$)

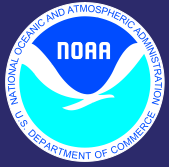


# Potential Threat from TD

Total Threat:

6

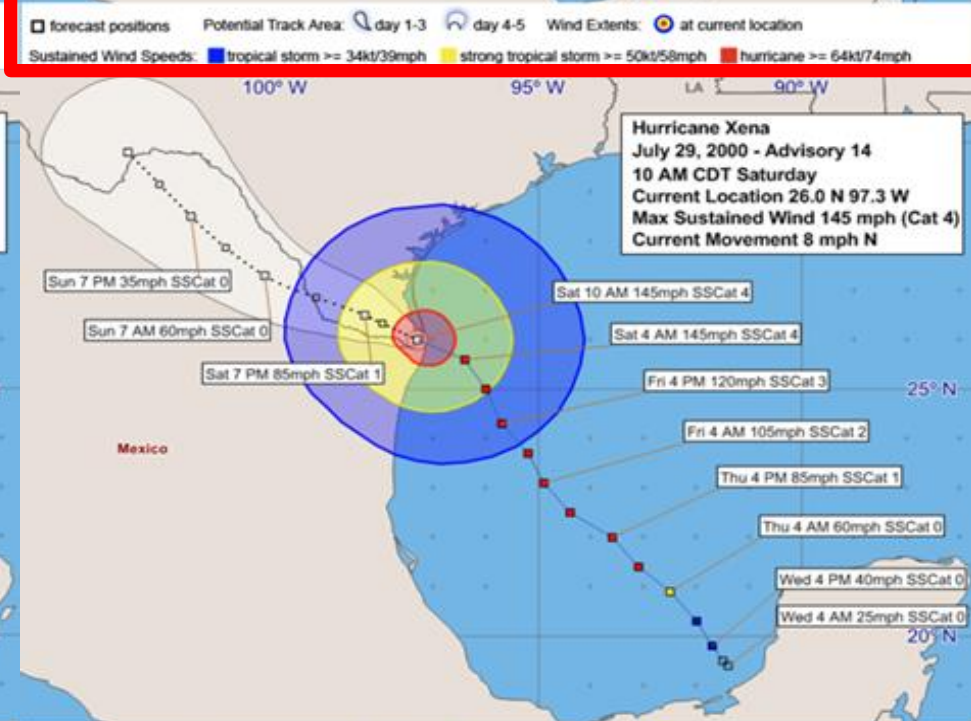
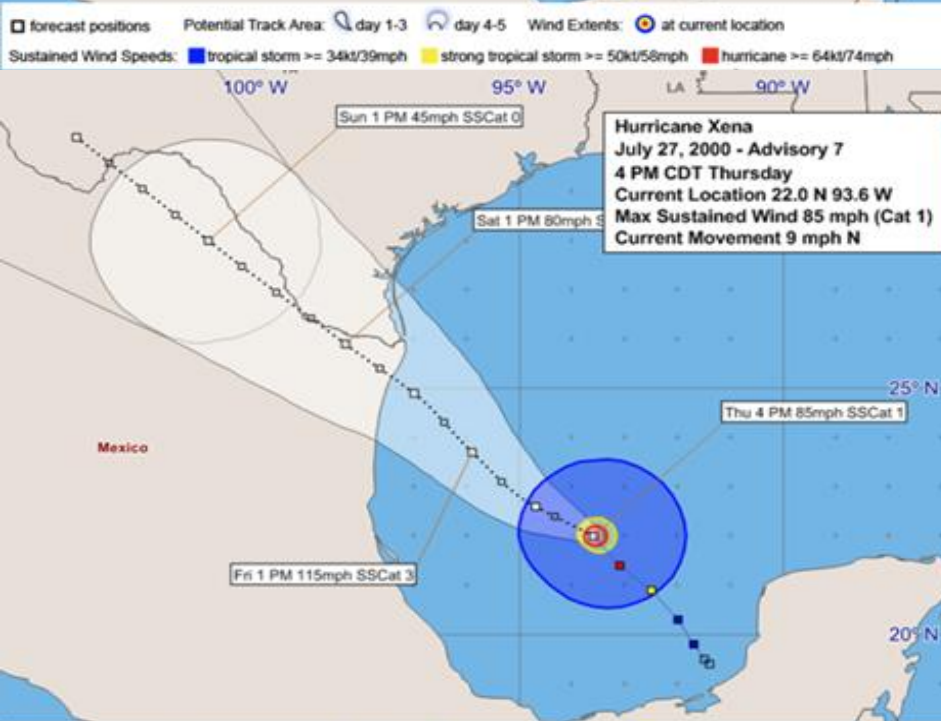
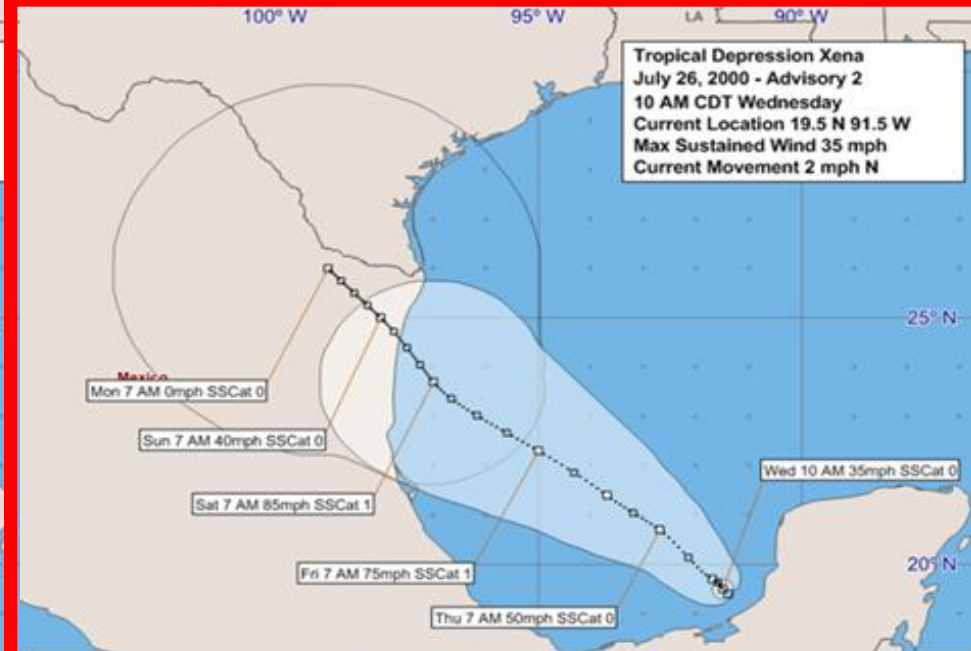
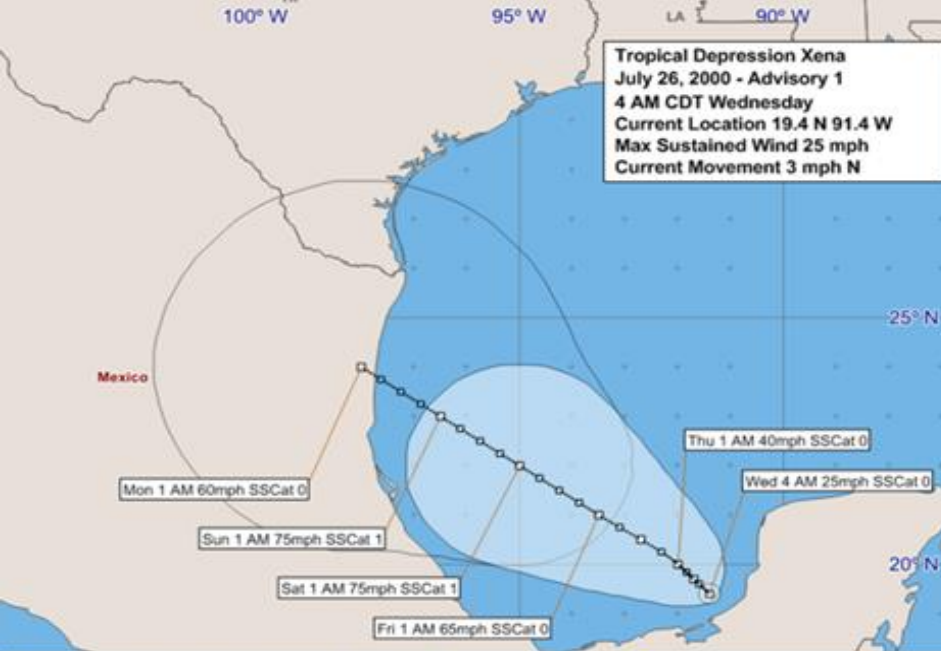




# NWS Key Points (Advisory 1)



- Confidence Increasing for Rapid Intensification of TD (should become Xena in six to twelve hours...
- ...but Low/Very Low Confidence in Exactly How Much Intensification
- Do not focus on track at this point; errors may be large
- Rainfall and Some Rainfall Flooding Impacts Have Highest Likelihood of Occurrence, based on history and recent heavy rain/soil moisture
- Wind is a “wildcard” ; Moderate threat based on potential for intensification (+) combined with low/very low confidence in track



# Potential Threat from TD

Total Threat:

7

4

3

2

1

0

Concern about stronger  
winds based on 3-day  
uncertainty

Winds

Overwash/  
Minor  
Seaside  
Flooding

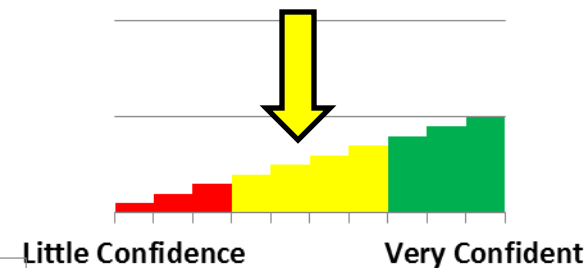
Surge

Widespread Inundation  
Possible based on forecast +  
prior rainfall

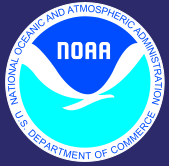
Rainfall/ Flooding

- None
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

Confidence



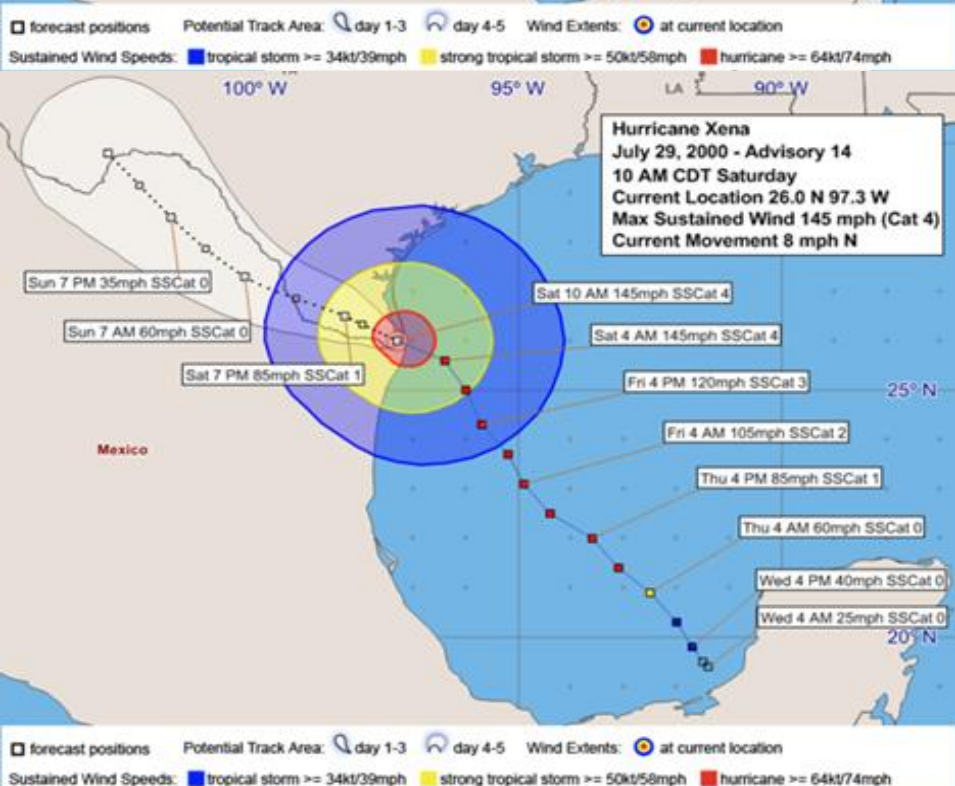
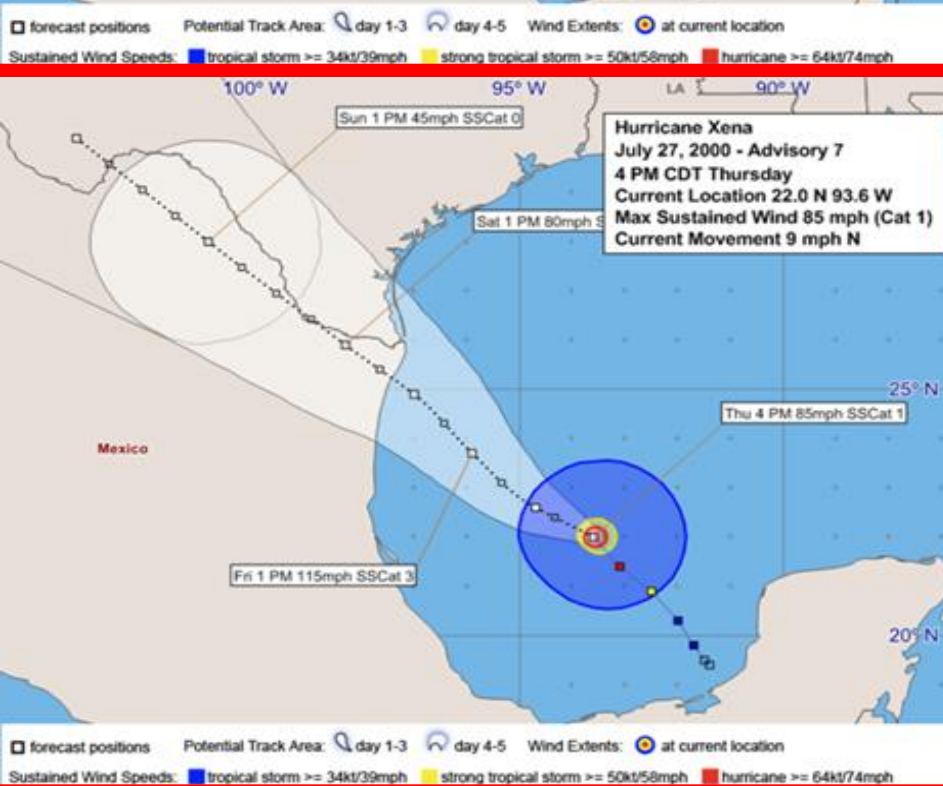
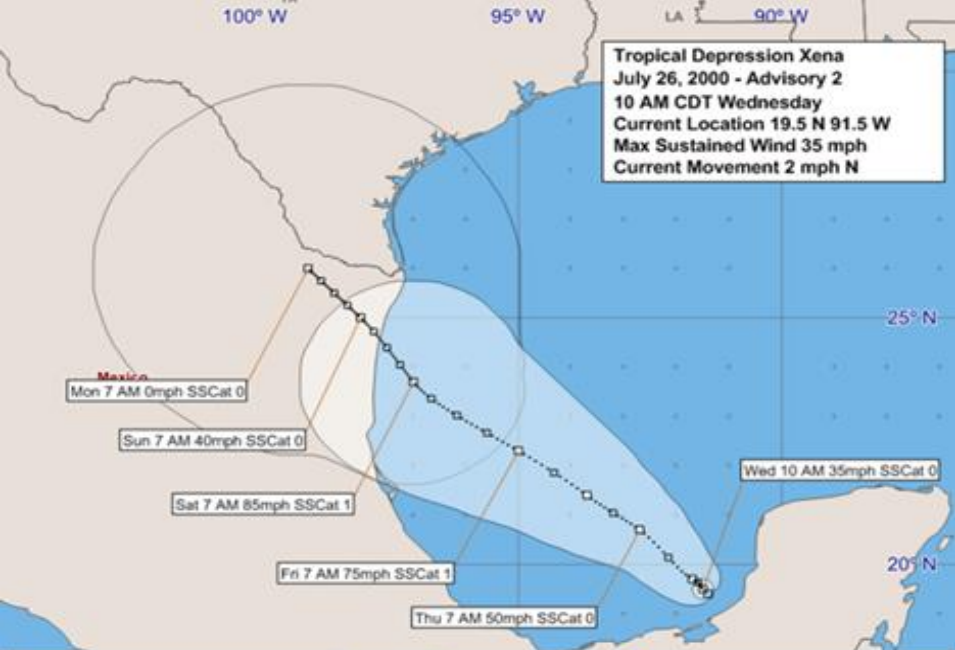
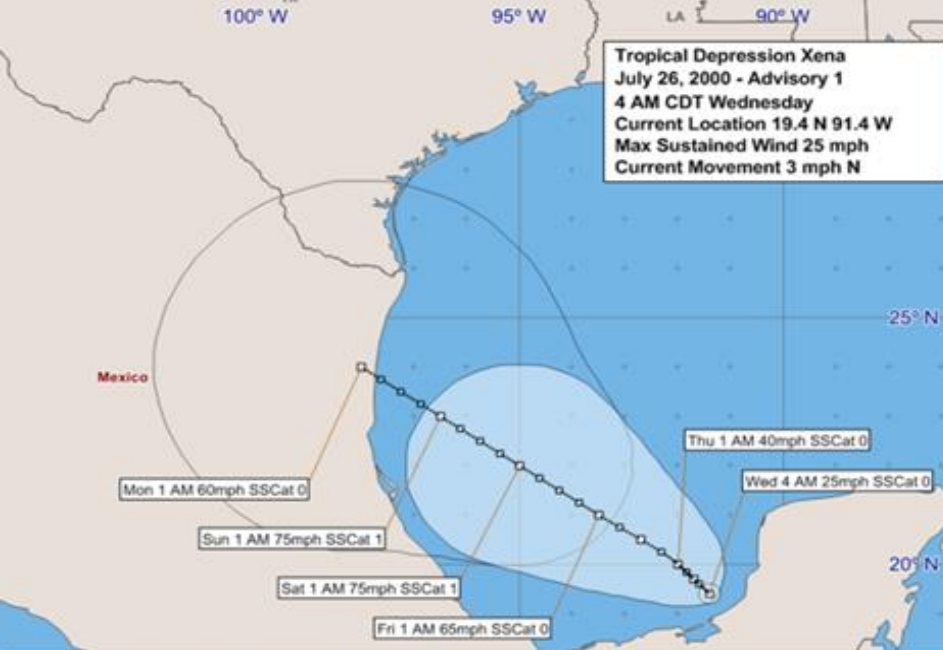




# NWS Key Points (Advisory 2)

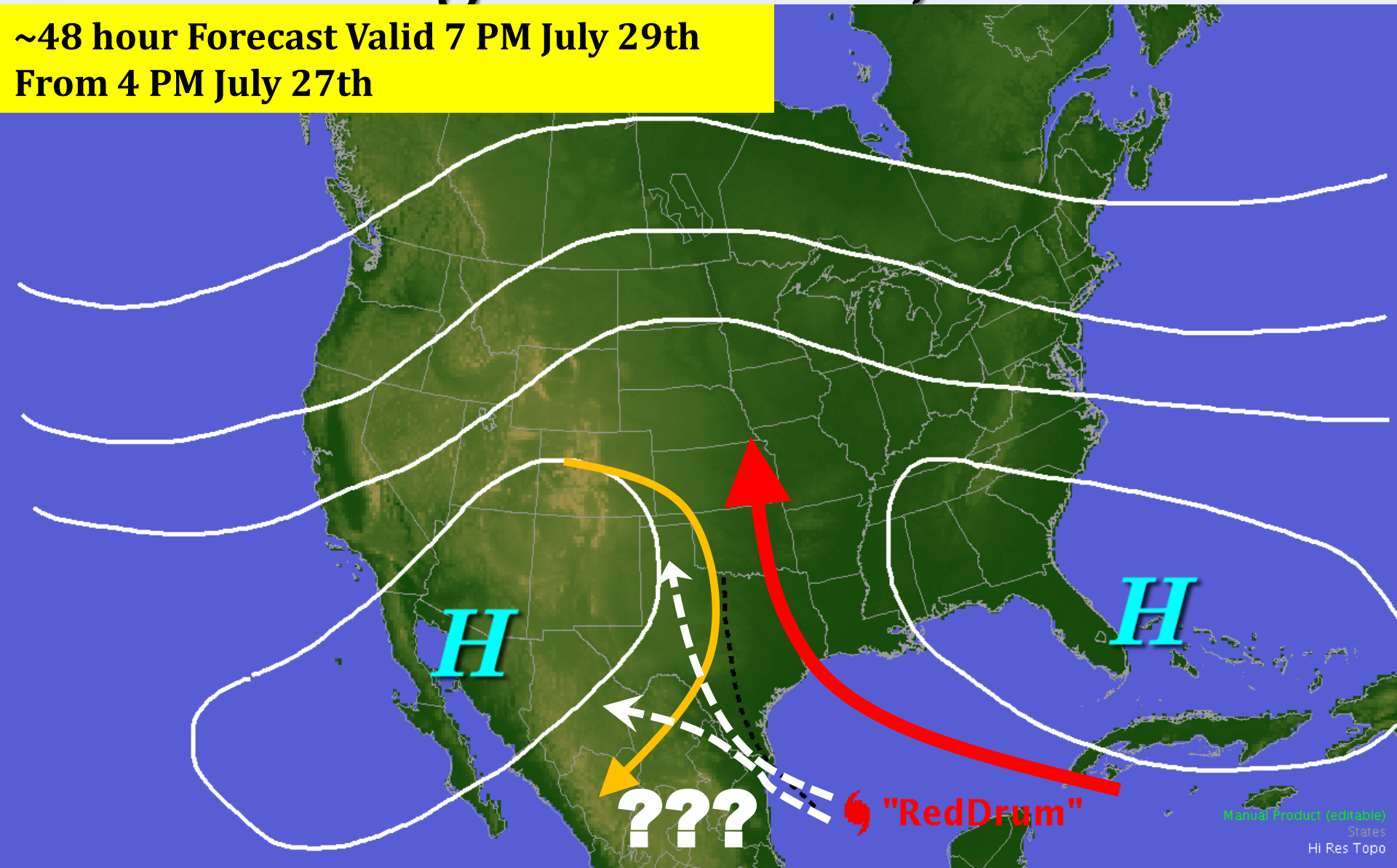


- Confidence Increasing for Rapid Intensification of TD (should become Xena in six to twelve hours...
- ...still Low Confidence in Exactly How Much Intensification
- Do not focus on track at this point; errors may be large
- Rainfall and Some Rainfall Flooding Impacts Have Highest Likelihood of Occurrence, based on history and recent heavy rain/soil moisture
- Wind is a “wildcard”, but confidence increasing for potential hurricane force wind gusts to Cameron County, at least
- Northward “jog” in track and slight intensity increase bring more surge threat and change resource deployment situation

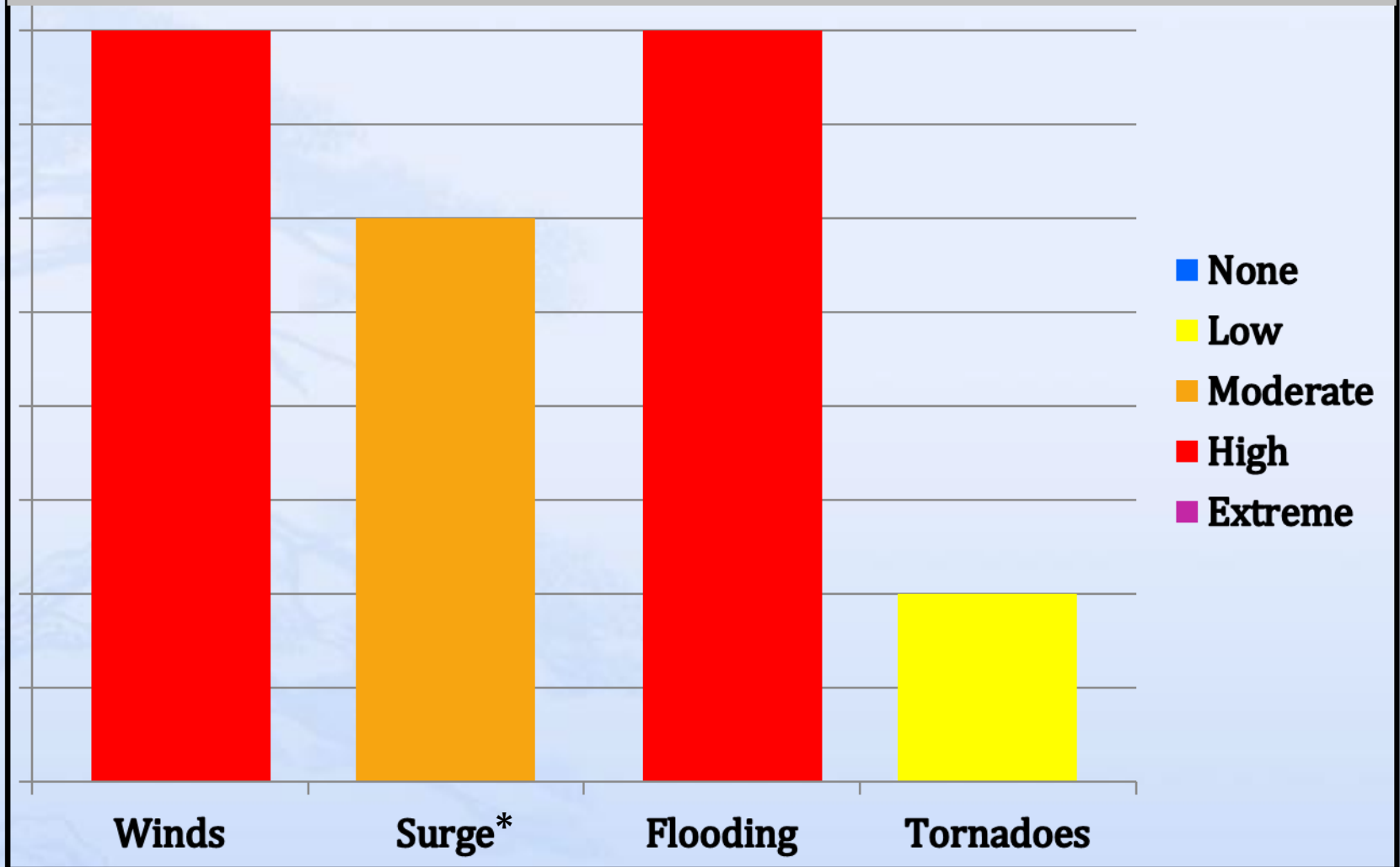


# ??? Steering Winds at 12,000 Feet

~48 hour Forecast Valid 7 PM July 29th  
From 4 PM July 27th



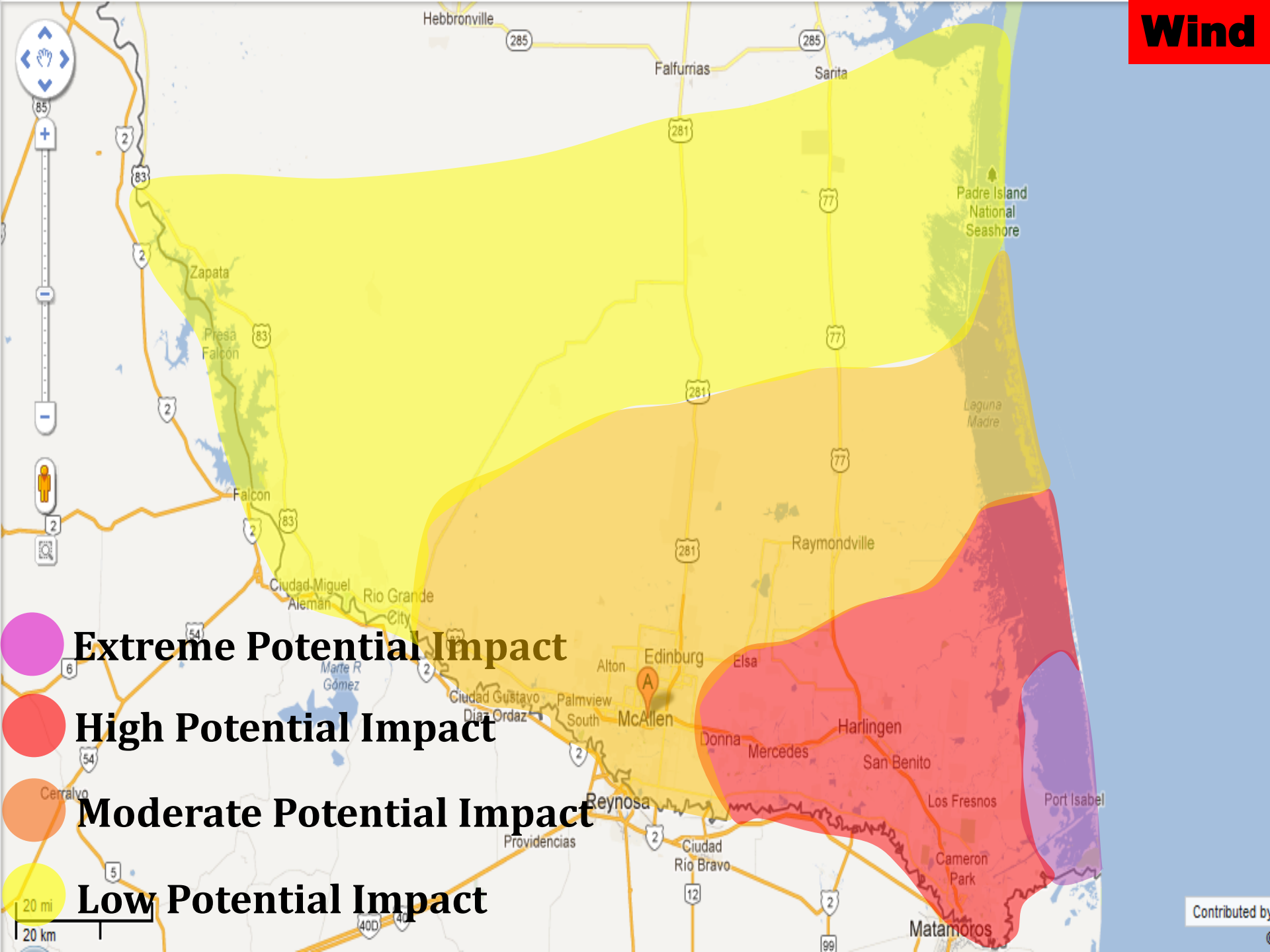
## Potential Impact from Xena: Based on H-48/42 Fcst



**\*For Port Isabel-SPI-Ship Channel-Laguna Vista-Arroyo City-Port Mansfield**



**Wind**



# Coastal Cameron County

**Potential for Extreme Impact:** Extremely dangerous and life-threatening winds may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of devastating to catastrophic wind damage.

**Devastating Damage** – If realized, all older mobile homes will be destroyed. Houses of poor to average construction will be destroyed or severely damaged. Moderate to major damage of well-constructed houses will include up to one half of all gabled roofs. Also, a significant number of exterior walls will fail. Aluminum and light weight steel roofs will be torn off buildings at industrial parks. Partial roof and exterior wall failure are likely at low rise apartment buildings, especially those of poor to average construction. Most windows in tall buildings will be blown out, with other minor to moderate damage possible due to swaying. Airborne debris of light to moderate weight will cause additional major damage, as well as injuries and possible loss of life.

Near total power loss is expected. Many power poles will be knocked down, and numerous transformers will pop. Outages will last for weeks in some areas. The availability of potable water will be diminished as filtration systems begin to fail.

Thousands of trees will be severely damaged. Up to three quarters of all healthy small to medium sized trees will snap or uproot, especially on saturated ground. Severe damage is expected to citrus orchards; some orchards may face total destruction. Most newly planted ground crops will be wiped out. Livestock left to weather the storm will be injured, some critically. Some livestock deaths are likely.

## Extreme

Descriptions are consistent with sustained hurricane force winds or frequent gusts of Category 3 intensity (111 to 130 mph) as realized in hardest hit places.

**Catastrophic Damage** – If realized, damage will be unprecedented. Much of the affected area will be uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer in spots. At least one half of well-constructed homes will have roof and wall failure. All gabled roofs will fail, and most of those homes will be destroyed. The majority of industrial buildings will become non-functional; partial to complete wall and roof damage is likely. All wood framed low rising apartment buildings will be destroyed. Concrete block or brick low rise apartments will have major damage, including some wall and roof failure. Tall buildings will sway dangerously and have most windows blown out; a few may collapse. Airborne debris will be widespread and include heavy items such as household appliances and even some light automobiles. Sport utility vehicles and light trucks will be moved or tossed. The blown debris will create

## High

## Brownsville/Harlingen, Mercedes, Weslaco/Donna

**Potential for High Impact:** Dangerous and life-threatening winds may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of major wind damage. If realized, the majority of older mobile homes will be severely damaged or destroyed. Those that remain will be uninhabitable until repaired. Houses of poor to average construction will have major damage including partial wall collapse and roofs being lifted off. Many will be uninhabitable until repaired. Well-constructed houses will have minor to moderate damage to shingles, siding, and gutters. Many unprotected and exposed windows will be blown out. Partial roof failure is expected in industrial parks, especially to those buildings with light weight steel and aluminum coverings. Older low-rising apartment roofs may also be torn off, as well as siding and shingle damage. Airborne debris will cause damage, injury, and possible death. Power outages will be widespread, and could continue for multiple weeks in some areas. Numerous power lines will be pulled down, and a number of power poles will fall.

All trees with rotting bases will uproot or snap. Nearly all large healthy branches will snap. Some healthy trees will uproot, especially where ground is saturated. Major damage is expected to citrus orchards. Most newly planted crops will be damaged.

Descriptions are consistent with sustained hurricane force winds or frequent gusts of Category 2 intensity (96 to 110 mph) as realized in hardest hit places.

## Moderate

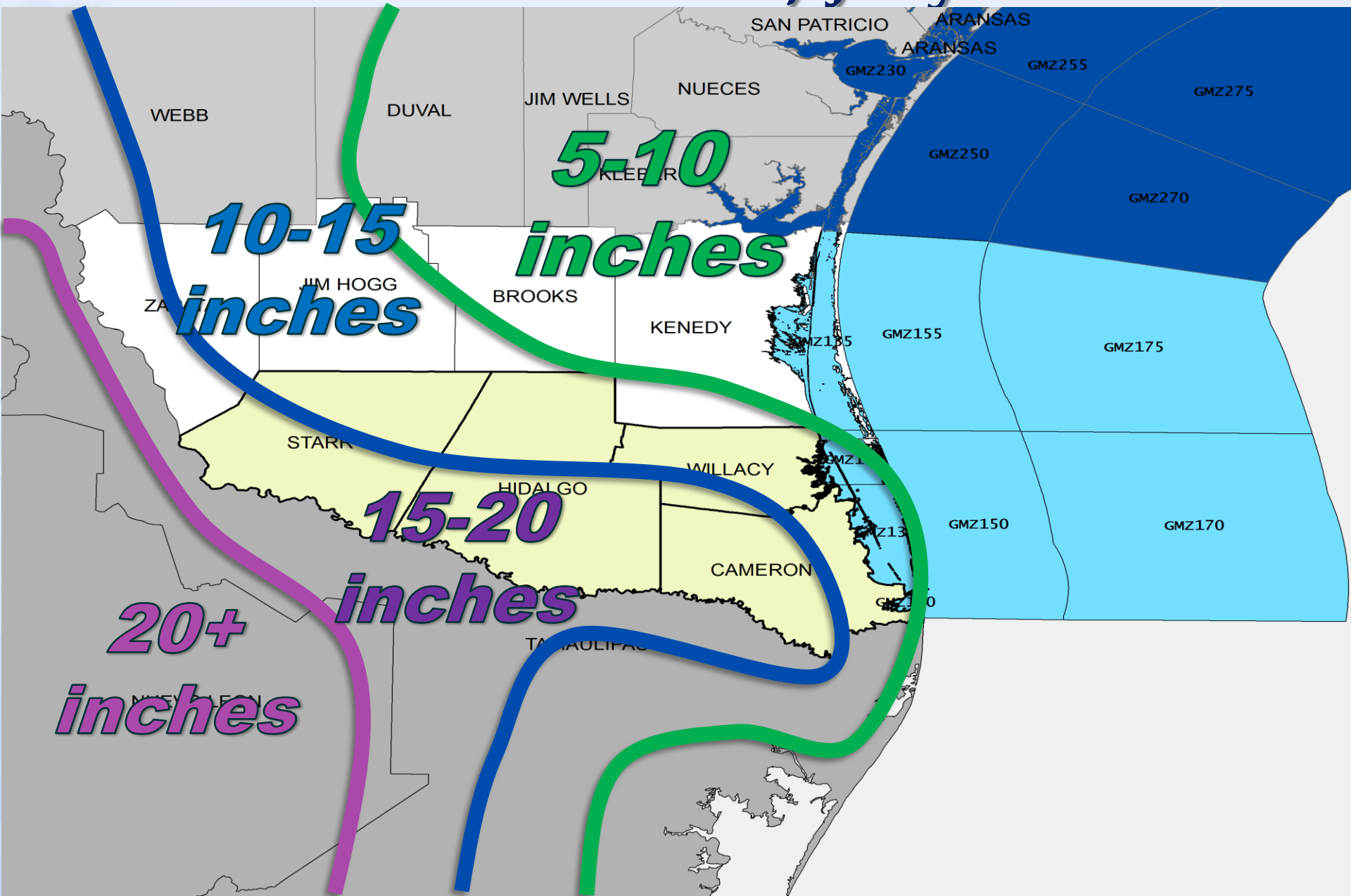
## McAllen/Edinburg/Pharr, La Joya, Sullivan City

**Potential for Moderate Impact:** Preparations should be made for the threat of moderate wind damage. If realized, most mobile homes will experience moderate to substantial damage; those of poor construction will be destroyed. Houses of poor to average construction will have significant damage to shingles, siding, and gutters; more serious structural damage is possible. Unprotected and exposed windows are at risk of being blown out. Many screened patios will be damaged. Some well-constructed homes will also see shingle and siding damage. Unfastened light to moderate weight items will become airborne, causing additional damage and possible injury. Hundreds of power lines will be blown down; local outages will affect entire neighborhoods.

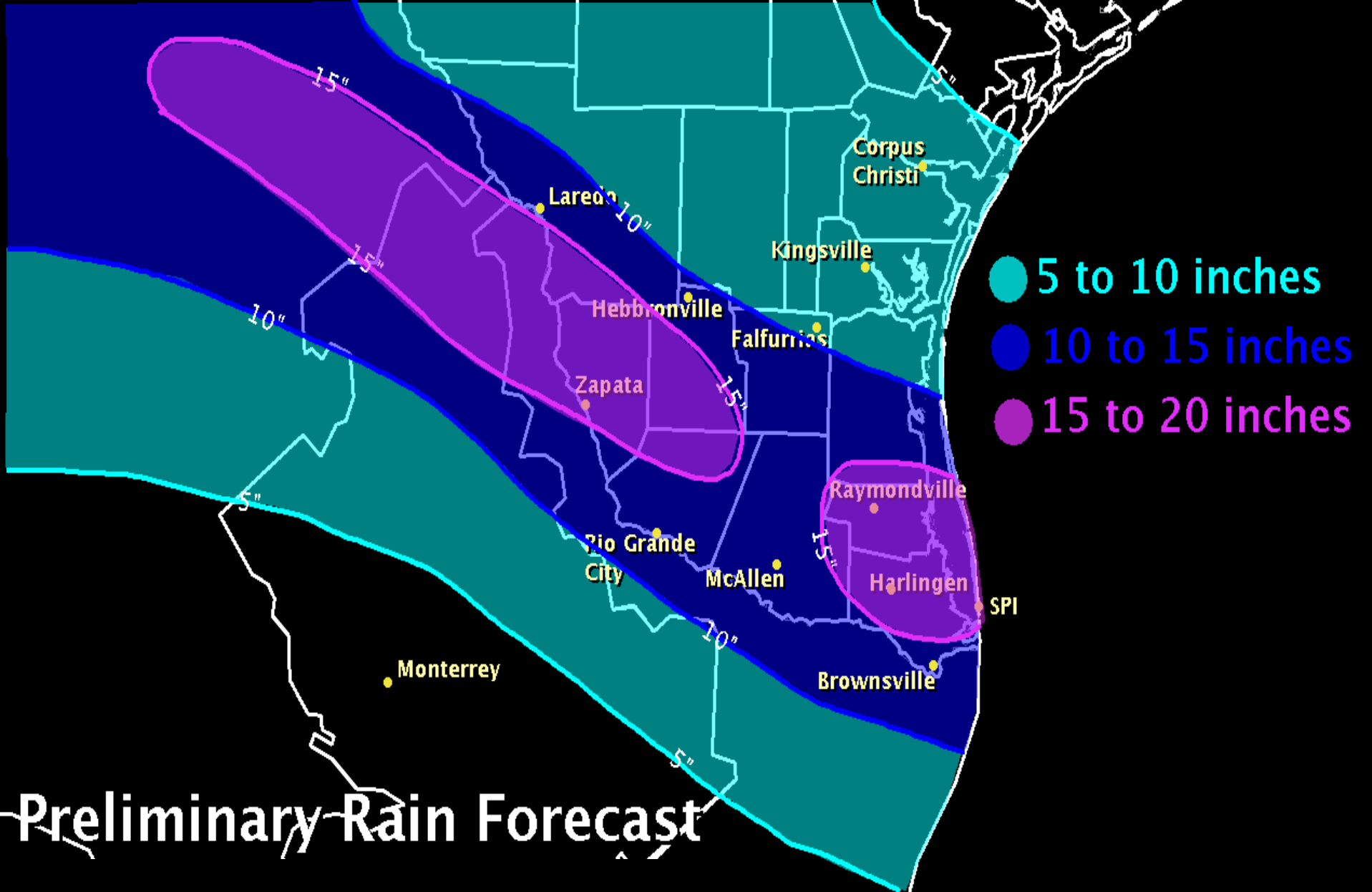
Many large branches of healthy trees will be snapped, and rotting small to medium sized trees will be uprooted. Numerous palm fronds will be blown down, and minor to moderate damage will occur to citrus orchards and newly planted lowland crops.

Descriptions are consistent with sustained hurricane force winds or frequent gusts of Category 1 intensity (74 to 95 mph) as realized in hardest hit places.

# Previous Rainfall, July 16-23



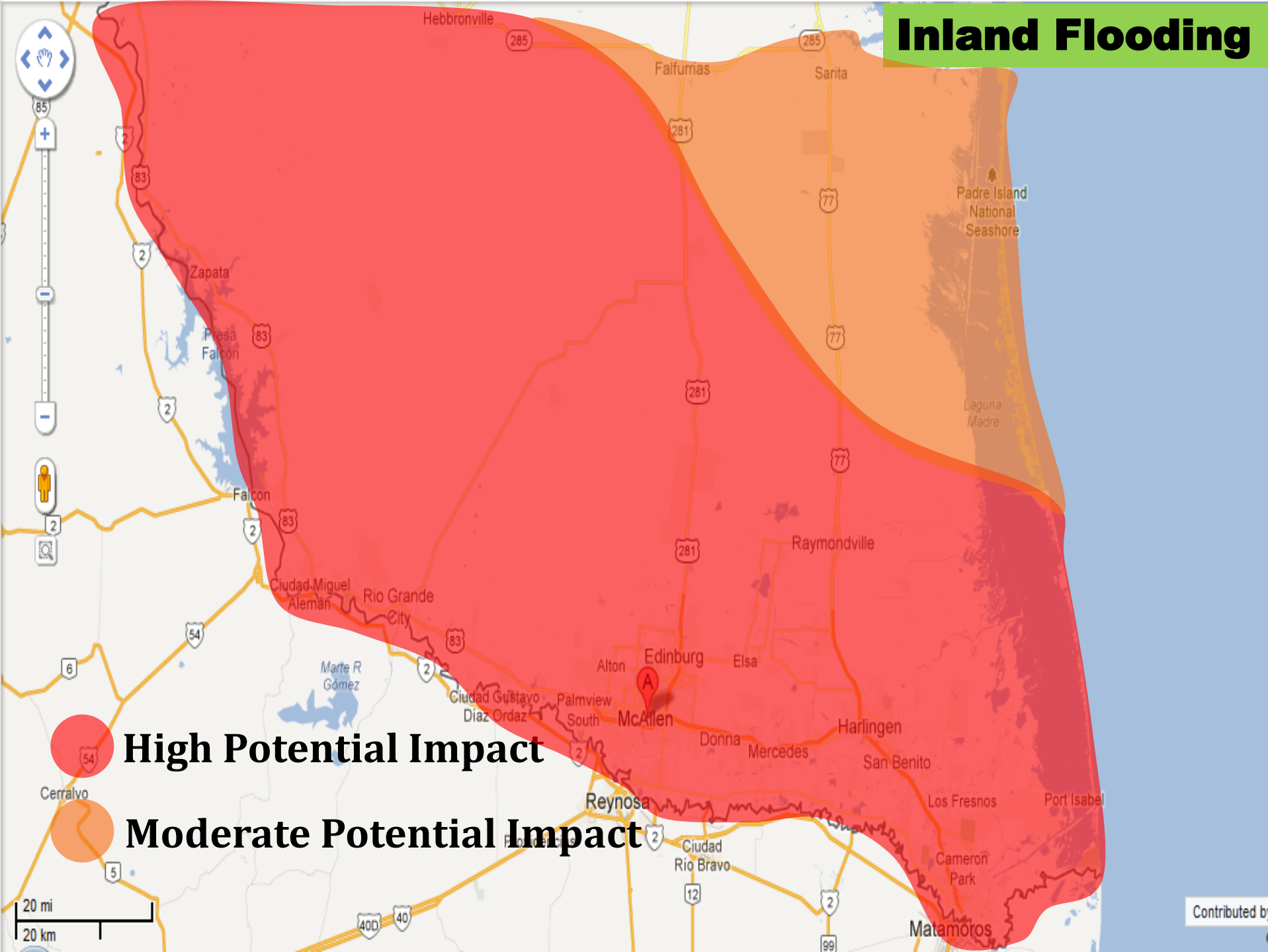




Preliminary Rain Forecast

"Zena" Exercise

# Inland Flooding



# “Xena” Potential Rainfall Flooding

## High

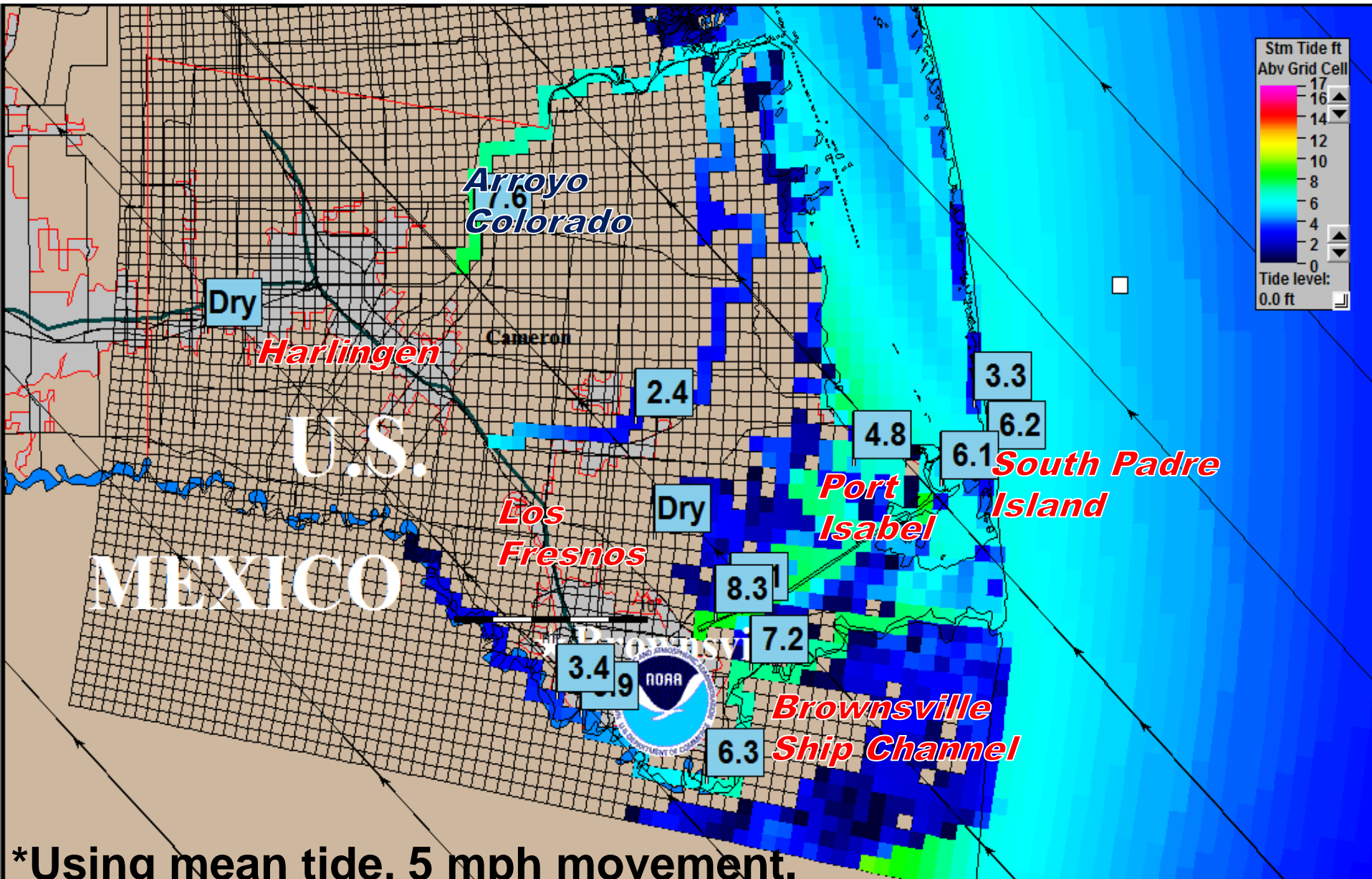
**Potential for High Impact:** Widespread flooding is possible. Persons living near or in poor drainage locations should make preparations to protect their lives and property. Evacuations may be necessary; heed mandatory evacuation orders.

If realized, major property damage will occur in several places along with minor to moderate damage elsewhere. Very poor drainage areas may experience over 4 feet of flood water. Other poor drainage locations will have flood water depth of 2 to 4 feet. Many resacas will overflow. Numerous main roads will be closed. Driving is discouraged except in emergencies.

All streams, creeks, and arroyos in affected areas will rise, with some reaching or exceeding flood stage/bankfull. Normally quick rising streams, creeks, and arroyos will exceed overspill their banks by several feet, flooding homes along them. Pastures will also flood; some livestock losses are likely. Several secondary roads and low-water bridges will be washed out.

Descriptions are consistent with a critical threat to life and property and the likelihood for higher rain totals to well exceed flash flood thresholds.

# Potential Inundation, Xena (First Guess)\*



\*Using mean tide, 5 mph movement.



# Xena - Potential Flooding from the Sea

## High

**Potential for High Impact:** Dangerous and life-threatening inundation may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of major coastal flood damage from sea water. If realized, most coastal communities will be inundated, especially if the surge arrives during high tide. People who do not heed evacuation orders may drown. Many shoreline structures of average construction which are not elevated above the waterline will be destroyed; widespread, sometimes devastating personal property damage is likely elsewhere. Moderate to major damage is expected to marinas, docks, and piers. Many small craft will break away from their moorings, especially in unprotected anchorages.

Vehicles left behind in evacuated areas will likely be damaged or swept away. Numerous roads will be swamped; some possibly washed away. Entire flood-prone coastal communities may be cutoff for an extended period with sea water several feet deep reaching more than a mile inland. Coastal residents in multi-story facilities also risk being cutoff. Flood conditions will be worsened by battering waves on top of storm surge and tide. Such waves will exacerbate property damage, increasing the potential for destruction of homes and businesses, even those of block construction. Damage from beach erosion could take a year or more to restore.

Descriptions are consistent with the likelihood for widespread inundation with local water depths of 5 to 7 feet (above ground level) in hardest hit places. Relative to impact potential, a comparable event in recent history is Hurricane Beulah in 1967.

## Moderate

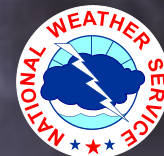
**Potential for Moderate Impact:** Preparations should be made for the threat of moderate coastal flood damage from sea water. If realized, all residents living along the shoreline will need to protect against sea water entering their homes or businesses, especially during periods of high tide. For those particularly vulnerable, several feet of water may enter low-lying structures causing them to become uninhabitable. Flood-prone coastal communities may be temporarily cutoff, with sea water reaching more than a mile inland. People who do not heed evacuation orders may face life-threatening consequences. Those living in single story dwellings are at greatest risk, but even those in multi-story dwellings risk being cutoff.

Vehicles left behind in evacuated areas will be susceptible to damage or destruction. Minor to moderate damage is expected to marinas, docks, and piers. Several small craft will break away from moorings, especially in unprotected anchorages. Conditions will be worsened by increased wave action on top of the storm surge and tide. Such waves will exacerbate shoreline property damage, increasing the potential for destroying homes and washing away vehicles. Beach erosion will be substantial and may require months to restore.

Descriptions are consistent with the likelihood for partial inundation with local water depths of 3 to 5 feet (above ground level) in hardest hit places.

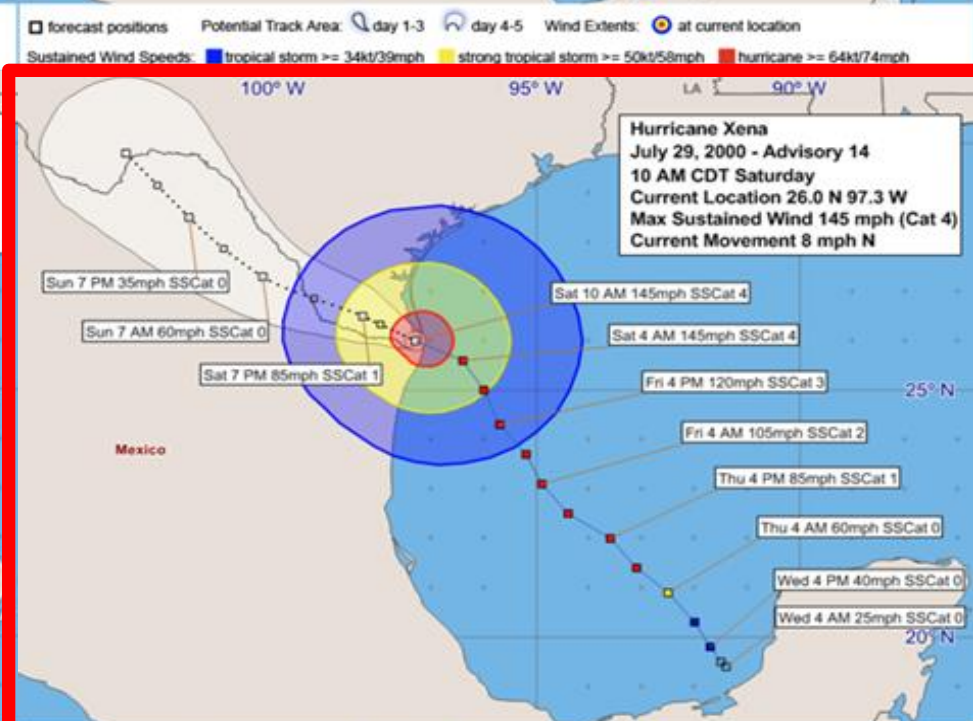
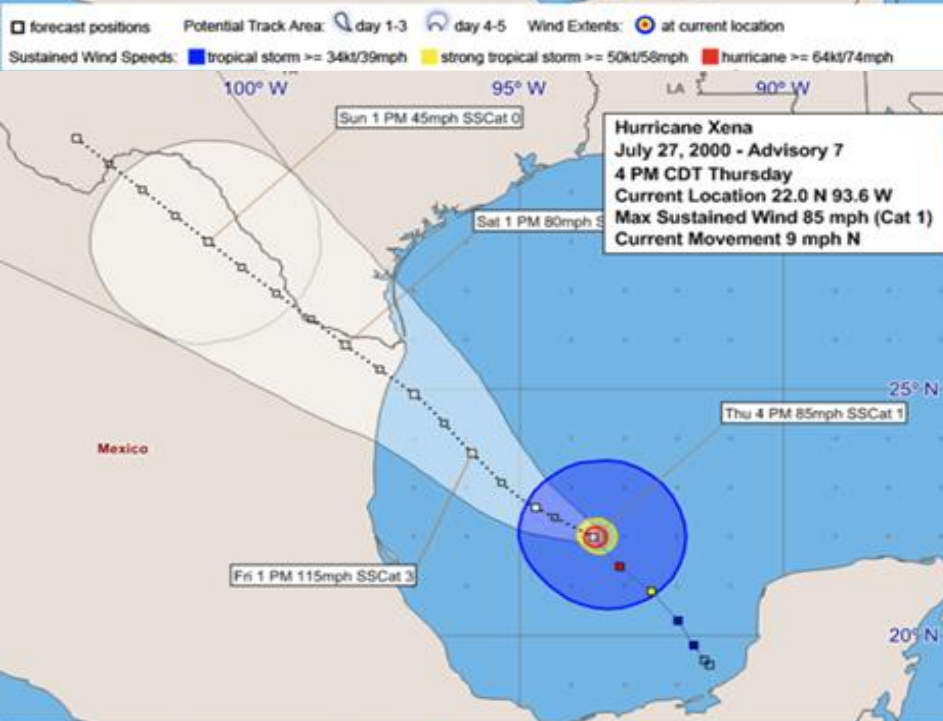
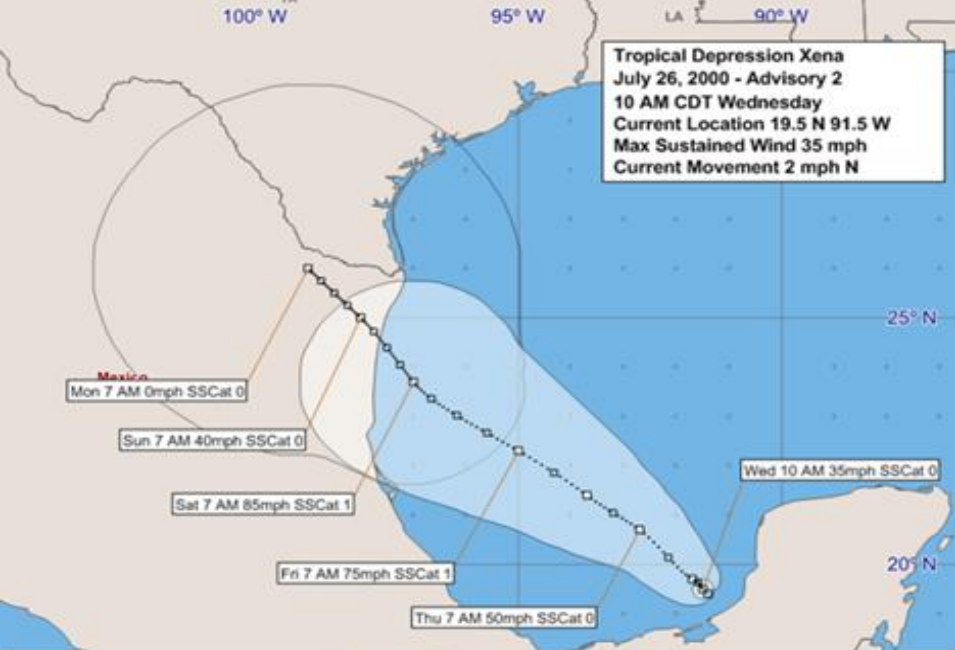
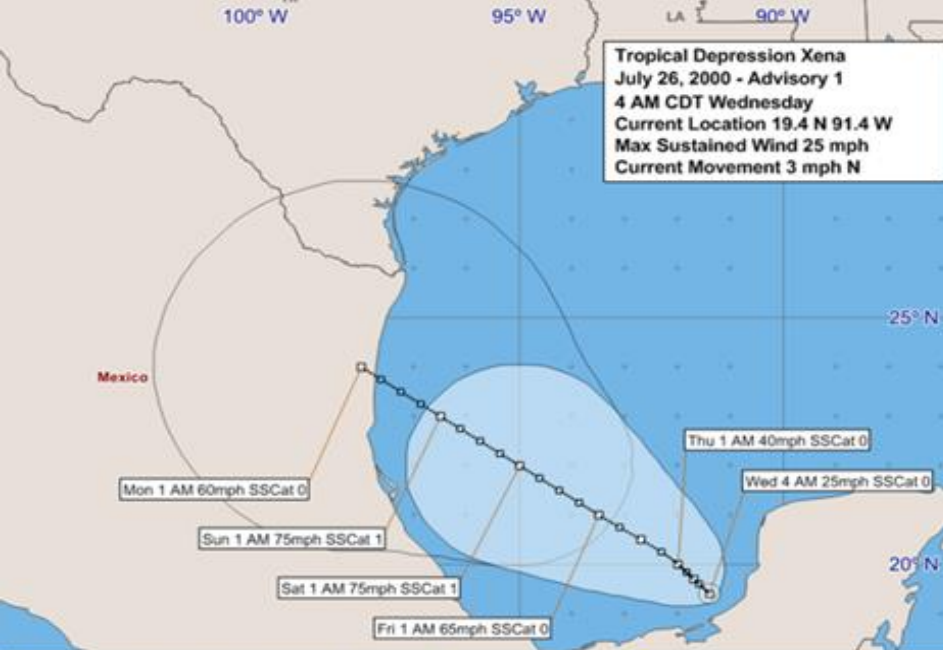


# NWS Key Points (Advisory 7)



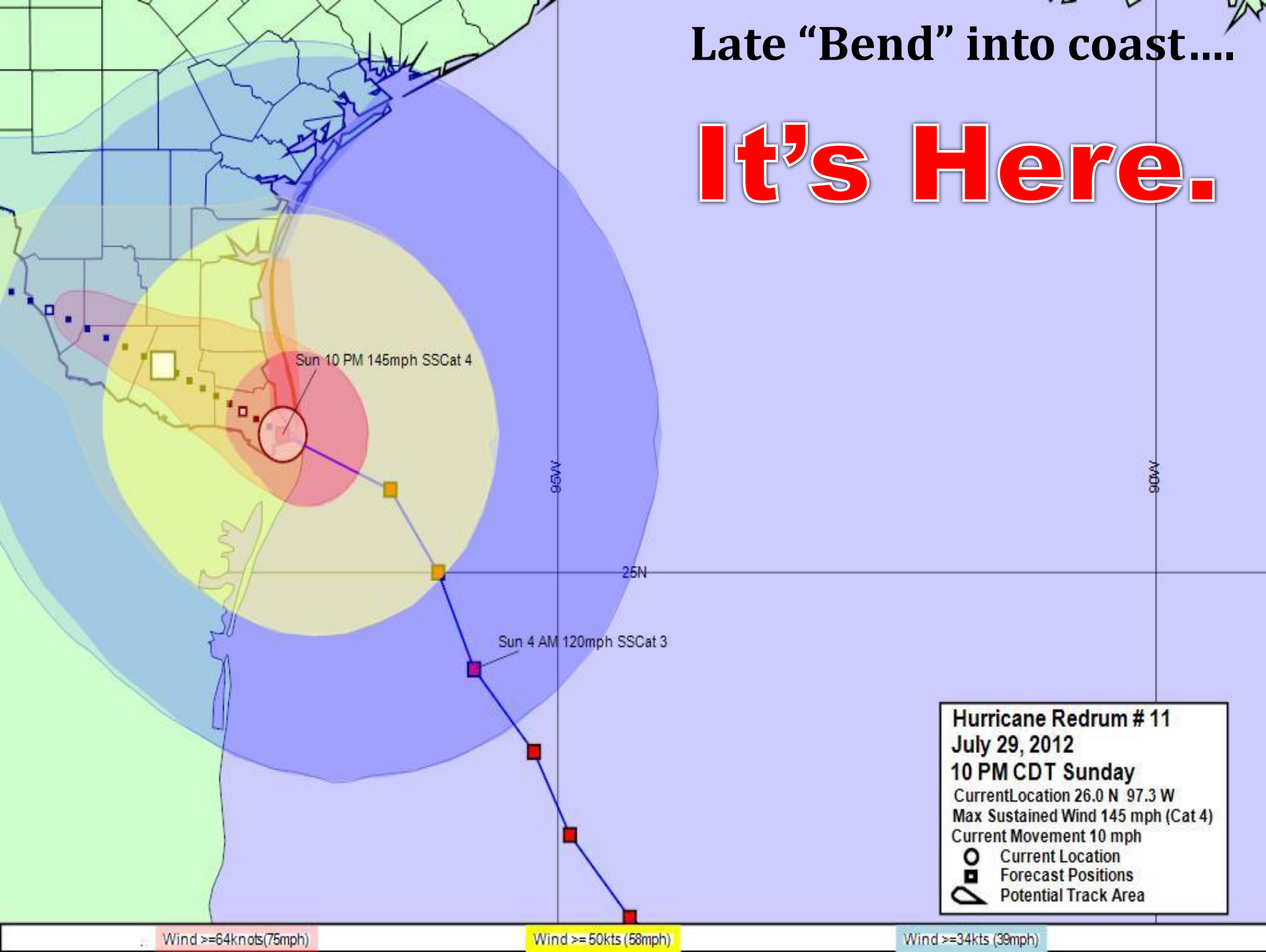
- **Xena Certain to Become a Major (Cat 3 or greater) Hurricane**
- **Confidence High on Increasing Size as Cyclone Gains Latitude**
- **Confidence Medium on Exact Track...**
  - *...But Near Certainty for some RGV Impacts*
- **Inland Flooding a Primary Concern...**
  - *Some areas may see 30+ inches of rain from this and prior events; Hidalgo County is in this potential area*
  - *Some shelters have potential to become “islands”*
- **Wind is becoming a Primary Concern...**
  - *Still uncertainty as to rapid intensification, which could increase damage potential and inland penetration of destructive winds*
  - *Expected slowdown could create significant differences in impact between Port Isabel and McAllen*
- **Surge a Secondary Concern, but tricky...**
  - *Confidence is low with current forecast...potential for stronger, slower, and larger storm could increase impacts and inundation level*





Late "Bend" into coast....

**It's Here.**





# Tale of the Tape

- ✿ Red Rum Pounding eastern Cameron County with **145 mph peak wind**. Gust of 110 mph recorded at SPI Heliport at 7 PM before system stopped.
- ✿ Cell Phone and Power Out SPI, Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, etc.
- ✿ **Gusts to 65 mph** at McAllen/Miller Airport.
- ✿ **Storm Surge Flooding on SPI unknown extent of sea water height**. Brownsville Ship Channel flooded with 7 to 9 feet of water overtopping.
- ✿ **Major flooding** in Brownsville and Harlingen's poor drainage areas with 4 feet of water reported.
- ✿ Location of Center: Near Port Isabel.
- ✿ **Location of Eyewall: SPI, Los Fresnos, Brownsville.**

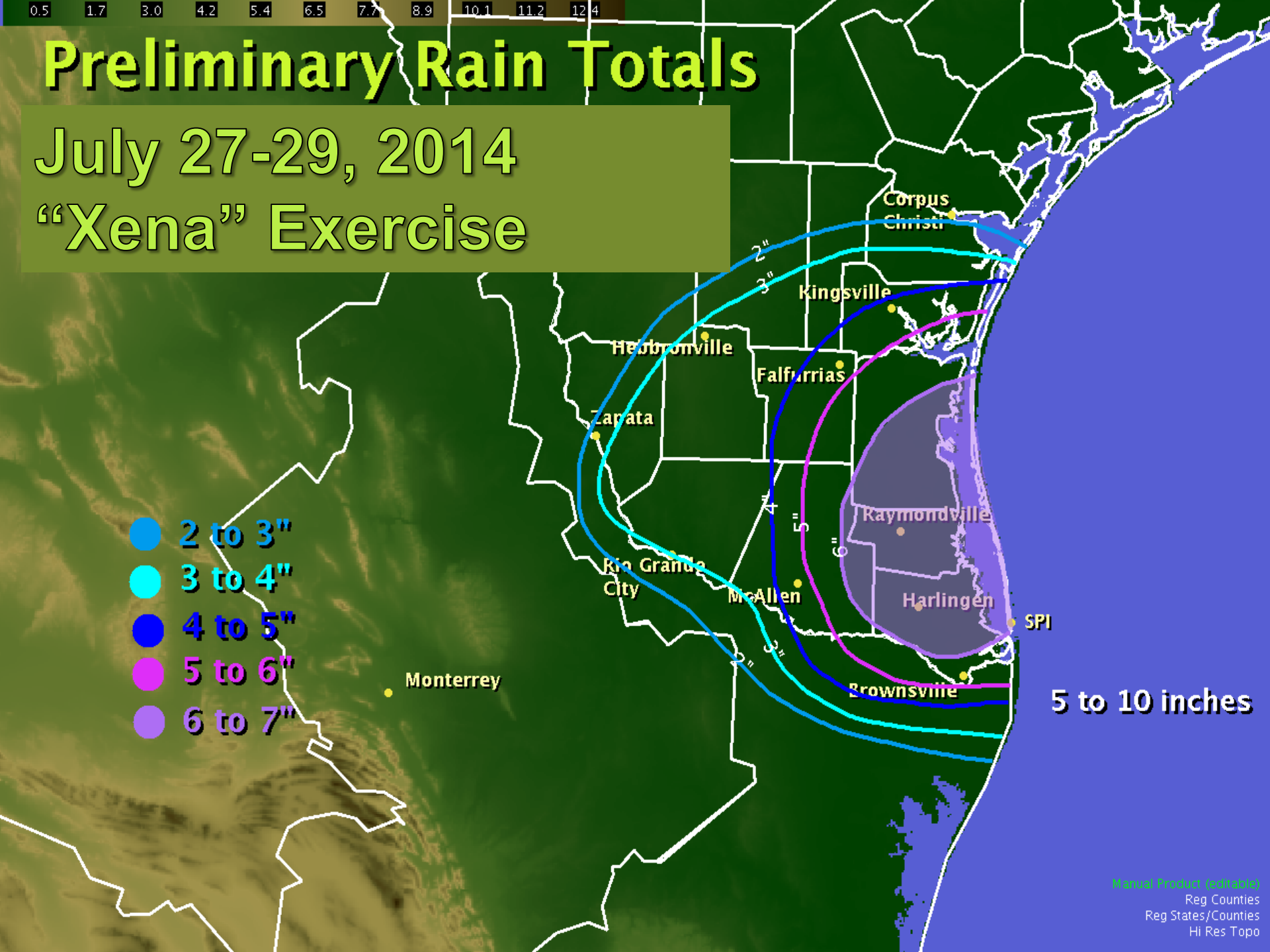
0.5 1.7 3.0 4.2 5.4 6.5 7.7 8.9 10.1 11.2 12.4

# Preliminary Rain Totals

July 27-29, 2014

“Xena” Exercise

- 2 to 3"
- 3 to 4"
- 4 to 5"
- 5 to 6"
- 6 to 7"

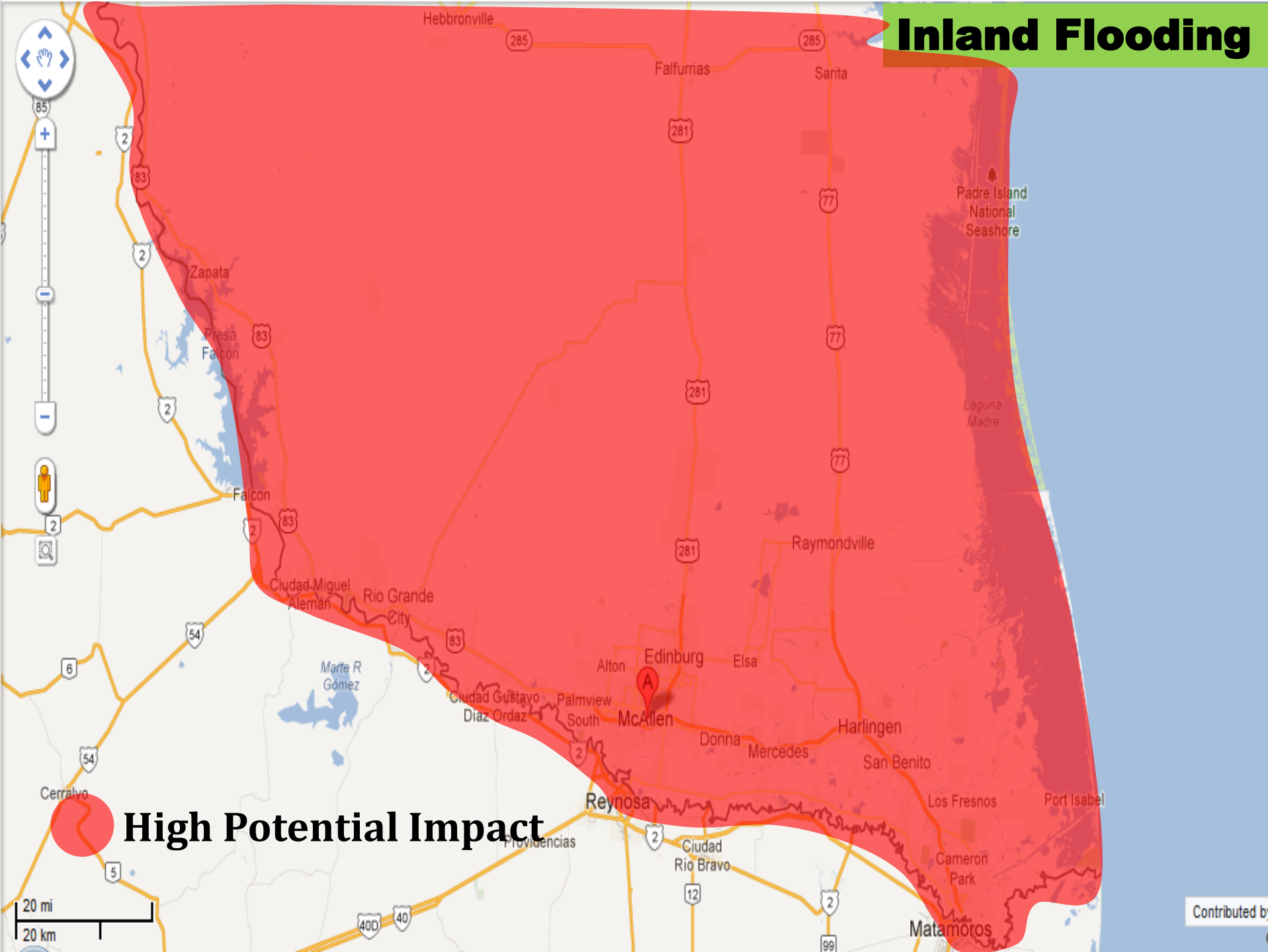


5 to 10 inches

# Flood Control Project?

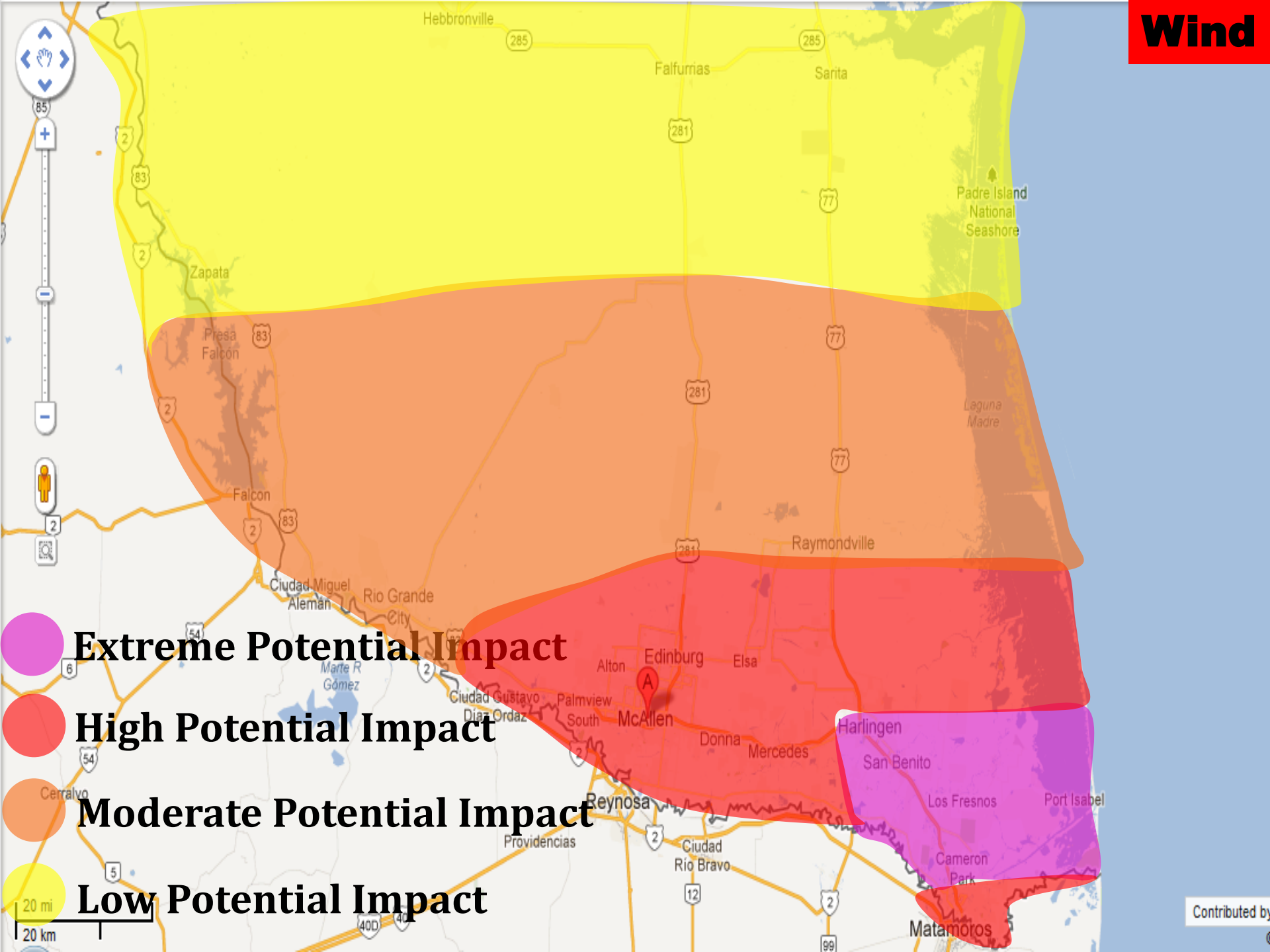
- ✧ Based on antecedent and forecast rainfall in the Rio Grande Basin...
  - ✧ Up to 30 inches will have fallen in less than 3 weeks
  - ✧ Dam releases required and RGV floodway opened...
  - ✧ ...Impacts and levels much less than Alex and 1971. Similar to Gilbert (1988)

# Inland Flooding





|          |   |
|----------|---|
| High     | <p><b>Potential for High Impact:</b> Widespread flooding is possible. Persons living near or in poor drainage locations should make preparations to protect their lives and property. Evacuations may be necessary; heed mandatory evacuation orders.</p> <p>If realized, major property damage will occur in several places along with minor to moderate damage elsewhere. Very poor drainage areas may experience over 4 feet of flood water. Other poor drainage locations will have flood water depth of 2 to 4 feet. Many <u>resacas</u> will overflow. Numerous main roads will be closed. Driving is discouraged except in emergencies.</p> <p>All streams, creeks, and arroyos in affected areas will rise, with some reaching or exceeding flood stage/<u>bankfull</u>. Normally quick rising streams, creeks, and arroyos will exceed overspill their banks by several feet, flooding homes along them. Pastures will also flood; some livestock losses are likely. Several secondary roads and low-water bridges will be washed out.</p> <p>Descriptions are consistent with a critical threat to life and property and the likelihood for higher rain totals to well exceed flash flood thresholds.</p> |
| Moderate | <p><b>Potential for Moderate Impact:</b> Residents should prepare for areas of flooding, especially in poor drainage locations. If realized, minor to moderate property damage will occur and several main thoroughfares may be closed. Known intersections with very poor drainage may experience 2 to 4 feet of flood water. Other poor drainage areas may have flood water depth up to 2 feet. Most small streams and arroyos will approach, or possibly exceed, <u>bankfull</u>.</p> <p>Descriptions are consistent with a significant threat to life and property and the likelihood for rain totals to exceed flash flood thresholds.</p>   |

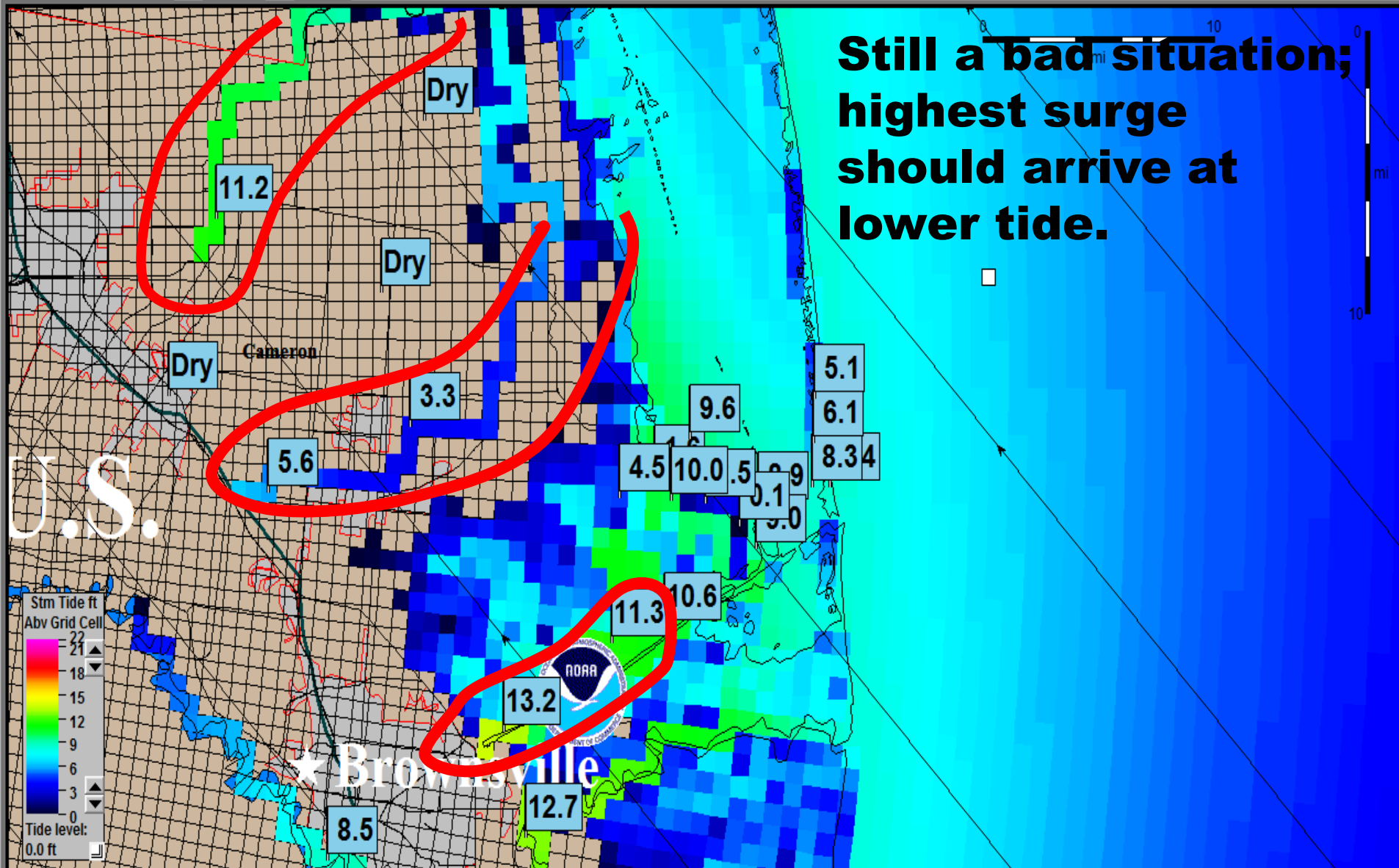


# Potential Water Depth (Feet)

Basin: Laguna Madre v3 <br3>

Storm: Dir nw: Cat 4: 05 mph Mean Tide

ioos T sub Pre Full



# “Xena” Potential Flooding from the Sea

your emergency action plan

## Extreme

**Potential for Extreme Impact:** Extremely dangerous and life-threatening inundation may occur. Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of catastrophic coastal flood damage from sea water. If realized, coastal cities and towns will be inundated, perhaps entirely. Within mandatory evacuation areas, persons who fail to leave will be swept to their deaths, as will outdoor animals and livestock. Some beaches will be destroyed beyond recognition and new inland cuts will be created. Hundreds of structures will be significantly flooded or washed away. Condominiums and hotels will also be devastated, some to the point of collapse. Damage will be accentuated by considerable floating debris. Extensive damage is expected to marinas, docks, and piers. Numerous small craft will break away from their moorings.

Vehicles left behind within evacuation areas will be swept away. Dozens, if not hundreds, of roads will be overspread or washed away; full recovery will take months, if not years. Sea water many feet in depth may reach more than a mile inland. Flood conditions will be worsened by intense battering waves on top of storm surge and tide. Such waves will exacerbate property damage and wash out solid road and bridge structures. Damage from beach erosion will take years to restore.

Descriptions are consistent with the likelihood for widespread inundation with local water depths greater than 7 feet (above ground level) in hardest hit places. Relative to impact potential, coastal flooding may be historic since there are no recent comparable events which have occurred along or near the coast of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.



## High

**Potential for High Impact:** Dangerous and life-threatening inundation may occur.

Aggressive preparations should be made for the threat of major coastal flood damage from sea water. If realized, most coastal communities will be inundated, especially if the surge arrives during high tide. People who do not heed evacuation orders may drown. Many shoreline structures of average construction which are not elevated above the waterline will be destroyed; widespread, sometimes devastating personal property damage is likely elsewhere. Moderate to major damage is expected to marinas, docks, and piers. Many small craft will break away from their moorings, especially in unprotected anchorages.

Vehicles left behind in evacuated areas will likely be damaged or swept away. Numerous roads will be swamped; some possibly washed away. Entire flood-prone coastal communities may be cutoff for an extended period with sea water several feet deep reaching more than a mile inland. Coastal residents in multi-story facilities also risk being cutoff. Flood conditions will be worsened by battering waves on top of storm surge and tide. Such waves will exacerbate property damage, increasing the potential for destruction of homes and businesses, even those of block construction. Damage from beach erosion could take a year or more to restore.

Descriptions are consistent with the likelihood for widespread inundation with local water depths of 5 to 7 feet (above ground level) in hardest hit places. Relative to impact potential, a comparable event in recent history is Hurricane Beulah in 1967.

# Aftermath

- ✿ Xena Will Weaken to a Category 1 (wind) storm over McAllen
- ✿ Storm Surge (seawater) flooding will remain an issue through morning high tide July 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Worst impact since Allen and Beulah.**
- ✿ **Inland Flooding may rival Dolly from Harlingen to Laguna Vista**
- ✿ **1 million residents will be without power**
- ✿ **Recovery will take months in Cameron and Willacy County; SPI will be out of commission until September, at least**
- ✿ **We pray everyone prepared or evacuated as ordered.**